

Connecticut Guardian

VOL. 5 NO. 10

HARTFORD, CT

OCTOBER 2004

Gov. Rell, Commission provide bonding for warehouse

SPC. JESSE J. STANLEY
65TH PCH

The State Bond Commission, chaired by Governor Jodi Rell, approved the funds for the Post Maintenance Facility renovation taking place at Camp Rell. The project is estimated to cost one-million dollars. This cost will be shared by the federal government, who will cover 75 percent of the cost, and the state who approved the funding for their portion, \$300,000, on Sept. 23.

The Bond Commission also approved funds for the recently completed Col. Nett Leadership Hall at Camp Rell.

In a continuing effort to improve and modernize the post, the Post Maintenance Facility is receiving an overhaul that will create more space and make the maintenance program there more efficient.

"The existing warehouse was in poor shape," Elizabeth Tracey, FMO architect said. "It is being replaced with a new and improved facility."

The new facility will have 10,000 square



Construction has begun on the new Post Maintenance Facility at Camp Rell. The new building will consolidate state and federal storage and work areas into a modern environment. (Photo courtesy Lt. Col. Gerry Lukowski, FMO)

feet of space. Most of the maintenance facilities and storage on post will be consolidated into the new warehouse, which will have four bays. The first containing the new maintenance shop, the others will be used for storage.

The new facility will also include heated

and unheated storage space, administrative workspace, mechanical and electrical trade workshops, automotive workspace and a fenced in compound for equipment storage.

Construction began in the summer and is expected to continue until next spring.

State Department of Veterans' Affairs hosts first of its kind Veterans' Consortium

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE SENIOR PA NCO

Saying it was long overdue, Department of Veterans' Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz opened a two-day Veterans' Consortium at the Rocky Hill Veterans' home on Sept. 28.

This was the first time in the 140-year history of the department that such a large group had come together to discuss Veterans' issues and needs.

nearly one hundred people from 65 federal, state and local agencies and organizations that deal with Veterans' issues attended the two-day conference.

Among those attending was Governor M. Jodi Rell, who, according to Schwartz, was the brainchild behind the conference.

See VETERANS Page 17



Governor M. Jodi Rell, Congressman Ron Simmons and Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs Linda Schwartz celebrate their high position on list of federal funding. (Photo by Pfc. Joseph Brooks, 65th PCH)

Goss confirmed as CIA Director

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The Senate confirmed U.S. Rep. Porter Goss to head the CIA on Sept. 23.

Goss, 65, former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and a former Army intelligence officer, was confirmed by a vote 77-17.

President Bush had nominated Goss, who had worked as a CIA field operative after his Army service, to take over the position after George Tenet resigned as director in July.

In a statement on the CIA's Web site, acting CIA director John E. McLaughlin said, "I know I speak for my colleagues at CIA and throughout the intelligence community in congratulating Porter Goss on his confirmation by the Senate as director of central intelligence."

"These are exceptional times for the intelligence community and the country,"

McLaughlin continued. "Along with all the men and women of American intelligence, I look forward to working closely with Porter in addressing the national security challenges ahead."

Goss came to Congress in 1989 representing Florida's 14th District. He had chaired the House Intelligence Committee's recent investigation into the Sept.

11, 2001, terror attacks.

Porter served on the Sanibel, Fla., city council and later was mayor. He had also served on the Florida's Lee County Board of Commissioners.

Prior to his confirmation, he had chosen not to run for re-election to Congress after serving eight terms.



See pages 6, 7, 14, 15
and 28 for Governor's
Day/Family Day
Welcome Home photos
and stories



Up Front with the Adjutant General

Staying aware of deployments, opportunities is everyone's responsibility

Another Connecticut National Guard unit heads to the desert, with two more to follow, this is reality for our members.

Commanders must ensure that they are in the loop and on top of our current deployment schedule.

They need to ensure they have the latest information to share with their membership.

Why, you ask. Because our members are entitled to nothing less.

I want all members to be aware of their sister units that have deployed and the schedule of deployments as we know them today.

Many of you may have heard my recent presentation when I discussed the new "model" for deployment of our Guard.

It goes like this, 25 percent of our Guard should expect to be deployed, 25 percent of our Guard should expect to be in an intensified training mode and the remaining 50 percent of our Guard should expect to be in "State" normal mode, ready and able for emergency State duty if our Governor calls.

This is the model we have been provided

by the National Guard Bureau and this is the model we will be ready for. We are working this model with our planners and can expect further deployments as we move closer to OIF III and IV.

As we prepare to close this fiscal year, I am concerned with the shortages in our *Recruiting Effort* for both the Army and Air. I am looking for your input, with ideas and programs to ensure we are making the greatest effort to get our word out.

Recently, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau indicated he will address this by adding recruiters to our full time force.

We should anticipate this; begin now to screen interested, qualified individuals that are eager to join our Recruiting Force. We need the help.

We currently have vacancies for those looking for a new career. Call our Recruiting Commander, Lt. Col. Tom Sousa, at 1-800-716-3550 for the details.

And speaking of a new career: *Commanders*- we need your help in getting the word out about the full time opportunities we have in our National Guard AGR (Active

Guard and Reserve) and Technician program. There are a large number of temporary technician jobs available for those that are interested. Additionally, we have a large number of AGR full time positions as a result of the 143rd ASG mobilization. ***Commanders must get the word out!*** Please stay in contact with our Human Resources Office to ensure you have the latest in full-time opportunities for your members.

Finally, its election time, our nation's record of election turnout is not good. Please do your part to help.

If you have Soldiers deployed, ensure they have their absentee ballots, if you have Soldiers and Airmen at home, ensure they have time to get to the polls, if they aren't registered to vote, give them time to register. This is a right we as Americans enjoy.

It is also a responsibility- let's live up to it!



Maj. Gen.
William A. Cugno
Adjutant General

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First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

The *Connecticut Guardian* is an authorized publication for and in the interest of, the personnel of the Connecticut National Guard, State Military Department, State Militia and their families. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the CTNG Hartford Public Affairs Office and is not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, and the Department of the Army or the Department of the Air Force. The *Connecticut Guardian* is published in accordance with AR 360-1 on the first Friday of every month and is printed by The Day Printing Co., New London, Connecticut, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding the month of publication.

Circulation: 9,000

Perspectives

What is the best part of having your loved one home again?



SPC. SUE GORECKI
1109TH AVCRAD
DAUGHTER OF STAFF SGT. JAMIE GORECKI
1109TH AVCRAD

The best part of having my mom home is that I get to see her every day, mostly because I work with her. I was concerned while she was deployed but I knew she would be safe. I was very relieved when she finally came home.

YOLANDA PUCINSKI
WIFE OF SGT. 1ST CLASS MARC PUCINSKI
143RD MP

The best part of having him home is knowing that he is safe and back home with us. Now we're able to get our life back the way it was before he left. It is s also knowing that you don't have to do everything alone anymore. He's only a phone call or arms length away.



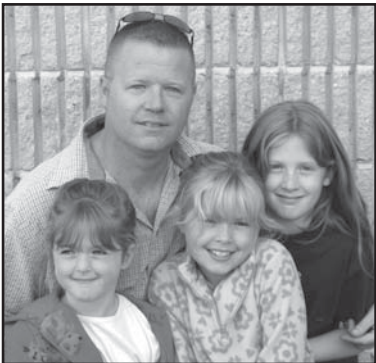
SANFORD M. MOORE
SON OF SGT 1ST CLASS SANFORD W. MOORE
1109TH AVCRAD

I got to go pick dad up off the bus when he came home. Now, he can take me place, we went to the movies and had a lot of fun. I even went to his work. I had him come to my first grade class for show and tell. He sent me a uniform from Iraq and I wore to school. He brought pictures into my class for the show and tell. I am very proud my dad served the country.



STEVE WABREK SR.
FATHER OF SPC. STEVE WABREK, JR.
143RD MP

The best thing about having him home is knowing that he's going to be safe and he came home without serious injury. He loves his country and put his life on the line for it. Now we just have to wait to have him home from Walter Reed permanently.



DAUGHTERS OF STAFF SGT. TOM
PENDLETON
1109TH AVCRAD
SAMANTHA PENDLETON (AGE
10)

The best part was when Daddy came home safely. He helped a lot of people when he was away. I'm happy he's home and he didn't get hurt.

JENNIFER PENDLETON (AGE 8)
As soon as Daddy came home we got to go on vacation as a family to Disney Land.

NATALIE PENDLETON (AGE 5)
Daddy took us to Chuckey Cheese's when he came home. We got to play a bunch of games and have fun.

102nd Infantry on the ground in Iraq; Fighting insurgents, IEDs, mortar attacks and pain of loss

1st LT. RICK MARSHALL
Co. C, 102nd INFANTRY, IRAQ

CAMP TAJI, Iraq – Within 24 hours of arriving in camp, rockets and mortars were raining down on the Soldiers of 3rd platoon Charlie Co. 102nd Infantry. The men of Co. C arrived in Iraq April 4 as part of E Troop 151 Cav, 39th Brigade Combat Team Arkansas National Guard. They were ready to conduct their year-long tour here only 15 miles north of Baghdad in the heart of the Sunni Triangle.

The insurgents in the area had a welcoming committee established to greet the Soldiers upon their arrival. E Troop felt the first effects of the fight when a rocket attack left Sgt. 1st Class William Labadie mortally wounded and Sgt. Cliff Leisure with several shrapnel wounds. Both Soldiers are from the Arkansas unit.

E Troop was called upon to get out and take the fight to the enemy. With no other units in place yet, E Troop and the Soldiers of the 102nd would stand alone to fight the enemy. The mission: Find the enemy and shut down the mortar and rocket teams.

The Soldiers went outside the wire searching terrain totally foreign to them. The terrain on the map did not match the terrain on the ground, as Soldiers found irrigation ditches, canals and impassible roads crisscrossing the landscape. Crossing points were difficult to find, and more time was spent trying to get around than engaging the enemy.

The enemy was fighting in his own backyard and was able to set up mortar or rocket-firing positions, then slip away into small villages. It also had a year to set up defenses in the area with which to combat

the American forces. The insurgents were able to capitalize on this in an ambush on 1st platoon on April 9.

Using an Improvised Explosive Device, or IED, placed under the road and a machine gun/Rocket Propelled Grenade, or RPG, ambush position, the insurgents let loose a massive barrage of fire on 1st platoon's mounted patrol. Sgt. Felix DelGreco was in the gunner's hatch of the rear vehicle. The initial blast disoriented DelGreco, but he quickly recovered and began returning fire at the enemy before being killed. His actions undoubtedly saved the lives of those soldiers in his truck. For his actions on that day, DelGreco was posthumously awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Bronze Star.

Connecticut Soldiers Staff Sgt. Wallace Rand, sergeants Christian Mines and James Dempsey, Cpl. Mark Stuart, and specialists Joseph Aparo, Steven Alvarez, Daniel Eichner, Gary Driscoll and Mark Ballantyne fought with distinction during the ambush by laying down suppressive fire, which enabled Soldiers to exit damaged vehicles and pushed the enemy off the ambush area.

Later in the afternoon of the 102nd's saddest day because of the loss of DelGreco, the 102nd got some payback by capturing a five-man mortar team only a few clicks from where 1st Platoon was ambushed.

While 2nd Platoon was conducting a patrol just outside camp, lead by 1st Lt. Rick Marshall and Sgt. 1st Class Brian O'Toole, crewmembers of two OH-58D Kiowa helicopters signaled it to follow them. At the time, radio communications between air and ground units still had not been coordinated, so they had to rely on hand and arm signals.



Sgt. Christian Mines pulls security on a cache uncovered in the town of Huessienia after a battalion cordon and search was conducted Sept. 27. (Photo by Sgt. Mark Pitts, E Troop, 39th BCT)

One helicopter even landed in order to have a face-to-face with the Soldiers.

The Kiowa's signals directed 2nd platoon to several houses where the insurgents were gathering. It conducted an extensive search, which included house searches and clearing irrigation ditches, where one insurgent was captured trying to hide from the platoon. All five insurgents were later taken to the Brigade Detention Facility for follow up interrogation. Assisting in the capture of the mortar team were 1st Lt. Rick Marshall, Sgt. 1st Class Brian O'Toole, Staff Sgt. Greg Lebeau, sergeants Chris Shary, Michael Gokey and Yohance Martin, and specialists Scott Cunningham, Jonathan Ducki, Rafal Poloszczak, Andrew Gutowski, Jason P. Sirko, Matthew Dufour and Robert Husted.

Third and 4th platoons of E Troop also saw plenty of action in April with 4th platoon capturing three insurgents who were attempting to launch rockets at Camp Taji.

The Soldiers of 4th, again working with Army aviation, were able to track down the insurgents in a truck and catch them red-handed with rocket tubes loaded and ready to shoot from the bed of the truck.

Using the cover of darkness and new-found knowledge of the terrain, 4th maneuvered their humvees into

position, which boxed in the insurgents, leaving no room for escape. Staff Sgt. Michael Aparicio, Sgt. Richard Schadtler, and specialists Aaron Jones, Brian Leclair, David Hill and Johnnie Ayala were able to apprehend the insurgents without firing a shot. This capture led to better intelligence about how the insurgents were operating in the area. The three insurgents were brought in for further interrogation.

Third platoon of E Troop mounted many aggressive patrols against insurgent forces. Third platoon was labeled the "IED hunters" for their ability to detect IEDs placed along routes before they went off. Third platoon can be credited with saving countless lives with their determined mounted patrols and route clearances. Leading the way in clearing the area of IEDs was Staff Sgt. Pablo Ravizzoli, sergeants Michael Purdue and Brian Barkman, and specialists Patrick Montes, Robert Hoyt, Adam Chuchro and Carlos Ramos.

Today, nearly halfway through their deployment, the Connecticut Soldiers in E Troop maintain continuous operations in order to ensure Camp Taji is safe from rocket and mortar attacks. All of the operations mentioned in this story started the second day the 102nd was in Iraq and continued until May.

Much of the action encountered was due to the uprising of Maqtada al-Sadr and the Mahdi Army, as well as foreign fighters in the area. April and May proved to be very busy months for the Soldiers of E Troop, but their bravery and tireless efforts in destroying or capturing the rocket and mortar teams, secured the safety of all Soldiers living on Camp Taji.



Spc. Jason Sirko conducts site security with Spc. Robert Husted in the background. (Photo by Sgt. Mark Pitts, E Troop, 39th BCT)

Families say good bye as troops head off to war

Pfc. JOSEPH BROOKS
65th PCH

They'll be spending their honeymoon miles apart from one another and will not be able to celebrate their new life together until 18 months has passed. They'll have to spend their first anniversary on different continents but Spc. Carlos Rosario of the 143rd Area Support Group (ASG) put on a brave face for his new wife Maria and their son Christian as he prepared to board a bus bound for Fort Drum, New York.

There were many tears on Sept. 21 as the families of the 143rd ASG realized they would not see their loved ones until they have completed their mission in Iraq. The spouses, children, friends and family of the Soldiers of the 143rd ASG gathered at the Newington Veterans Hospital to bid farewell. Despite having learned of their deployment in June, this day had come too soon.

"We sent the kids to school," said Sandy Stefanko, wife of Col. Thomas Stefanko. "We didn't want them here for this. Tom took them to the bus stop this morning. We kept talking to the kids to let them know daddy is going to Iraq to help the Iraqis."

As couples tried to steal a final embrace before it was time to go, the children of these Guard families played in

the grass together, too young to understand what was happening around them.

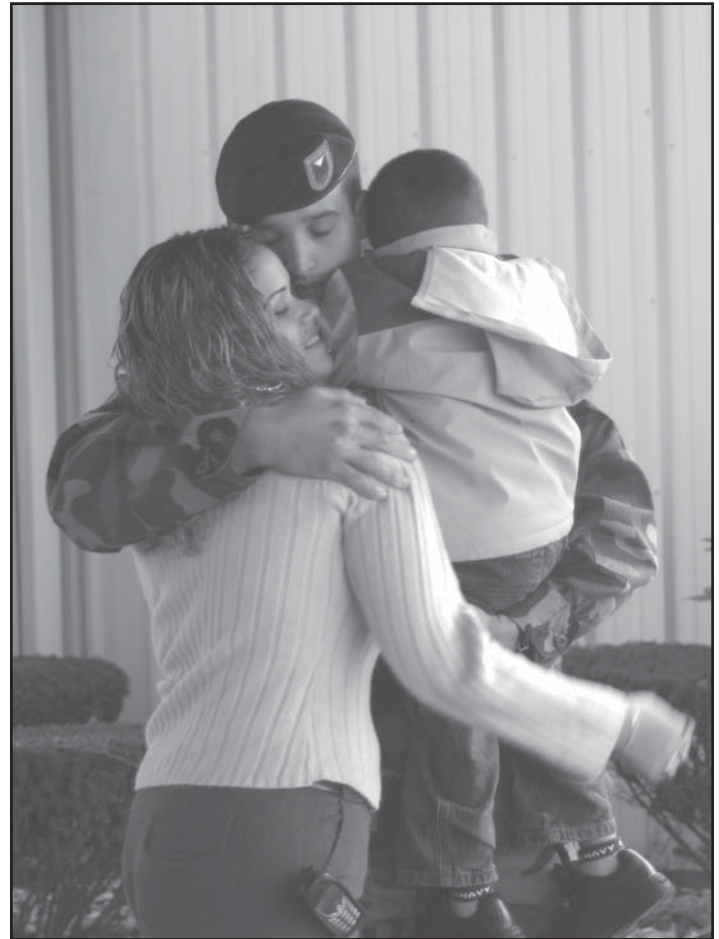
Then 1st Sgt. Lucien LeFevre called the 143rd into formation and they got the chance to show their strength and resolve. After the roll call he announced, "Let's show our families what we're made of. Half left face! Front leaning rest position...move!" As they counted out push ups there could be no doubt that this unit will see success in their mission.

Among all the strong emotions was a feeling of hope. Rosario expressed that hope as he looked at the woman he made his wife only one week ago.

"I love them. I'm doing this for them, my wife and my son, and I'll be back."



A couple tries to steal a quiet moment away from the crowd. (Photo by Pfc. Joseph Brooks, 65th PCH)



Spc. Carlos Rosario bids a tearful goodbye to his wife Maria and son Christian. (Photo by Pfc. Joseph Brooks, 65th PCH)

Pilots, mechanics to join Operation Iraqi Freedom

Spc. JORDAN E. WERME
65th PCH

Operation Iraqi Freedom is now well into its second rotation of Soldiers, and Connecticut continues to provide the support it has since the first rotation.

Company B and Detachment 1, Company D of the 189th Aviation Regiment, Windsor Locks, are now on their way to southwest

Asia to join the numerous other servicemembers from all over the country who are currently on the ground.

A send-off ceremony for the Soldiers was held Sept. 8 at the Army Aviation Support Facility, Windsor Locks. Hundreds of family, friends, colleagues and members of the media gathered to see the 50 deploying members of the two units honored by guest

speakers, including Governor M. Jodi Rell, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno.

The Soldiers of Company B, Blackhawk pilots, will be involved in Air Assault and Air Movement Operations, while the mechanics of Company D will provide Aviation Unit Maintenance for the Air Assault battalion.

Sept. 9 marked the actual departure day for the Soldiers, with family and media once again gathering to see them off.

Among the small group who stayed long enough to see the bus roll away and the Blackhawks take flight was Lori MacDonald, whose husband, Sgt. Michael MacDonald, a mechanic with Company D, was on the bus.

"I found out Aug. 6 (that he was being mobilized)," she said.

"It was sad to think about him going, to think of the time frame. It's something he really wants to do, so we have to stand by that."

MacDonald's sons, Andrew, 15, and Joe, 13, were also present to see their father off.

"It's a long time for him to be gone," said Andrew.

Lori made sure the kids got some good advice to follow while their father is following his orders.

"He told the boys not to fight. To make sure they get along with each other," she said.

"(Michael) has always been the one to settle things, so now they'll have to learn that for themselves."

So while Soldiers were saying goodbye and giving last minute instructions to their families, Gov. Rell made sure to make a promise of her own to the Soldiers she is sending over seas.

"If at all possible I will be here to greet you (when you return)," said Rell. "I can't wait for that day."



Soldiers from Company B and Company D, 189th Aviation Regiment, Windsor Locks, stand in formation during the send-off ceremony held at the Army Aviation Support Facility on September 8, 2004. The unit deployed for Fort Sill on September 9 for extra training before heading for Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit consists of Blackhawk helicopter pilots, mechanics and support staff, and is expected to be mobilized for 18 months. (Photo by Spc. Jordan E. Werme, 65th PCH)

103^d ACS celebrates return of members

LT. COL. PAMELA TITUS
JFHQ-PA

The 103^d Air Control Squadron celebrated the safe return of its members from numerous deployments at an event hosted by the community and the 103rd Family Support Program on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2004 in West Haven, Conn.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the 103^d has been continuously engaged.

"Your members were called to perform Air Traffic Control duties for the New York region; moments after the second ill fated airliner struck the World Trade Center. Not long after that you were called up in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE contributing directly to the security of the homeland through numerous small deployments around the United States. Next you took on the large scale deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. There you brought experience and capabilities that made the theater and airspace above it operate at a level of safety and efficiency unparalleled by your predecessors. Finally, there is your latest and still ongoing NOBLE EAGLE contribution as you work 24/7 to protect the air space over and around our National Capitol Region," said Brigadier General Thaddeus Martin, assistant adjutant general - Air.

On Sept. 10, 2001, it was easy to be a member of the Guard.

"We are clearly no longer that Guard nor do I suspect we will ever be that Guard again. What would normally span a career to change has evolved to this in just three short years," said Martin.

The event paid tribute to the military members of the 103^d, their families and their

employers.

Recognizing the welcome home celebration was a community effort, Martin said, "On behalf of the CTANG I want to say "thank you" to those whose donations helped make this event possible."

One of the contributors was Bielfield Elementary School of Middletown that took collections and held fund raisers to support the welcome home celebration and previously provided phone cards to deployed members of the 103^d.

Numerous guests attended to extend their gratitude, including Annia Hatch, 2004 Olympic silver medalist and elected officials from Connecticut.

"Yesterday we welcomed home a guy in very different circumstances; he was buried yesterday. This war is real and your sacrifices are real," said Richard Blumenthal, attorney general for the State of Connecticut. The individual noted by Blumenthal was part of the U.S. Army.

Third District Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro commented, "I think we have learned about the brave commitment the reserve folks make (since the war began). We are a grateful nation. Those of us in public life will stand in your defense to do the job we have asked you to do."

The event was coordinated by the 103^d ACS Family Support Program on behalf of the community.

"Thank you in particular to Jane and Charlie Solomon who have been the glue that has helped hold together the 103^d ACS families, the 103^d ACS Family Support Program and the coordinators of this event," Martin said.



Guests, including Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal (center) share a laugh during ceremonies marking the return from deployment of the 103rd Air Control Squadron. (Photo courtesy 103rd ACS)



Food was abundant at the 103rd ACS Welcome Home celebration in Orange. (Photo courtesy 103rd ACS)

DoD employees, Servicemembers need to heed Hatch Act rules

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

As the election season swings into high gear, the Office of Special Counsel has filed complaints against two federal employees deemed in violation of the Hatch Act.

The complaints address the use of "politically partisan electronic mail messages while on duty," according to a statement released by the OSC.

The Hatch Act regulates DoD employees' and servicemembers' participation in politics. The recent violations focus on e-mails sent to about 15 recipients in one case and more than 70 in the other.

"The use of Internet and electronic mail is second-nature to almost everyone and has become a favorite and effective campaign tool, even more so perhaps than four years ago," Special Counsel Scott

Bloch said in the statement. "I want to remind federal employees to be vigilant about following the Hatch Act, because we will consider this activity a form of electronic leafleting and thus a violation of the prohibition on partisan political activity in the workplace."

Partisan political activity is defined as activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party or candidate for a partisan political office or partisan political group.

Participation in politics is not completely forbidden.

However, active-duty military and executive-branch employees need to be aware of the rights and restrictions that the Hatch Act imposes on such activity.

What is allowed and disallowed can be

a bit confusing.

Of DoD employees, those in uniform are under the most restrictions.

They may attend political meetings or rallies, but only as spectators and not in uniform.

They are not allowed to give political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups or participate in political campaigns or conventions.

They are also not generally allowed to campaign for political office.

In its essence, the Hatch Act prohibits federal executive-branch employees from engaging in political activity while on duty or wearing an official uniform, the statement said.

Election Day

Tuesday

Nov. 2

Polls open
6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Exercise your
rights

VOTE

Sign here, Farooq

Spc. JORDAN E. WERME
65TH PCH

When a college football career doesn’t lead to a lucrative career in the National Football League, many athletes are left with no backup plan. But for one such individual, gridiron prowess paved the way to bone-crushing success.

Former Florida State University football star Ron Simmons has been wrestling professionally for well over a decade, and is now known as “Farooq” to hundreds of thousands of World Wrestling Entertainment fans.

The former World Heavyweight Champion and WWE Tag Team Champion was on hand at Camp Rell for Family Day, Sept. 11, to meet a few of his fans and sign autographs.

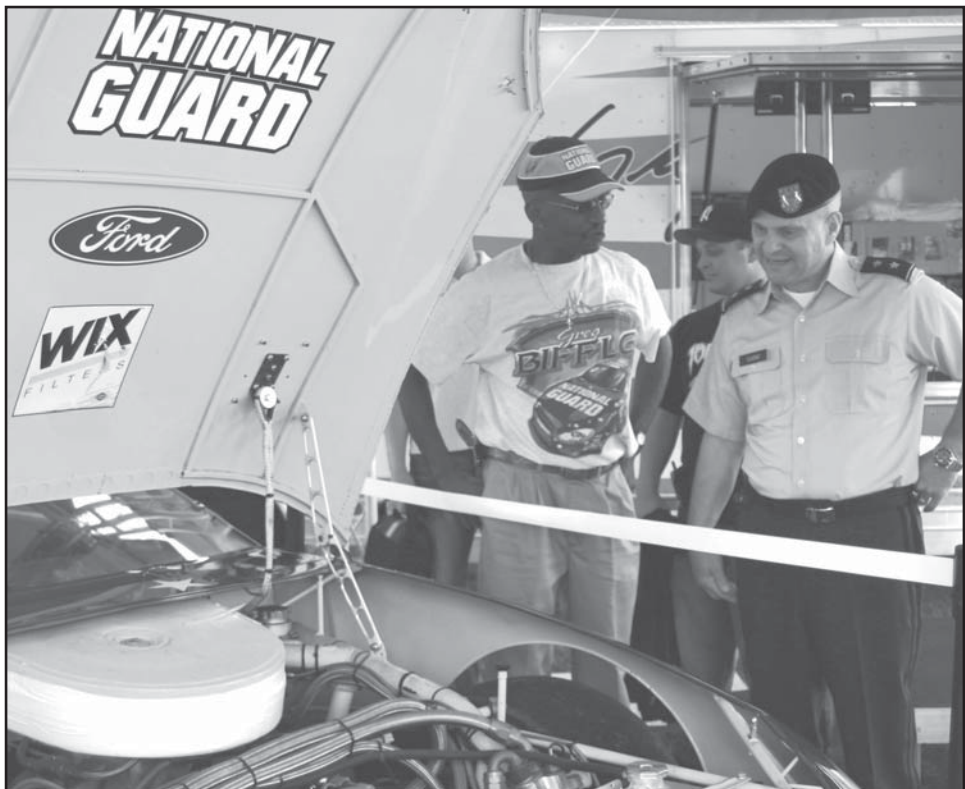
“Any time I get a chance to do something like this, I’m glad to do it,” said Simmons. “I’ve been to Iraq (to visit the troops), so I’ve seen what they do first hand. If I can boost morale I’m happy to do it. I wish I could do more.”

“It’s a very good turn out,” he said, “and it’s well done. There’s a good atmosphere. I’m having a ball.”

Simmons’ WWE tag team partner, John “Bradshaw” Layfield, another former football player, was originally scheduled to be in attendance for autographs, but was unable to make it due to scheduling conflicts, said Simmons.



World Wrestling Entertainment superstar Ron Simmons (known as Farooq to fans of the WWE) was in attendance to sign autographs and speak with Soldiers, Airmen and family members at Camp Rell during Family Day. (Photo by Spc. Jordan E. Werme, 65th PCH)



Clifton Bradford shows Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General, one of three touring models of NASCAR driver Greg Biffle’s race car. This is Biffle’s first season of National Guard sponsorship. (Photo by Spc. Jordan E. Werme, 65th PCH)

Racing for the Guard

Spc. JORDAN E. WERME
65TH PCH

Ask anyone in the South to name the four major sports, and one of the four is bound to be NASCAR. Over the last few years the sport has grown in popularity nationwide, and more recently, has grabbed the attention on the National Guard.

NASCAR’s #16 car, driven by Greg Biffle, has been running in circles this season with the National Guard logo in big yellow letters across its hood. A working replica of Biffle’s car was on display at Camp Rell for Family Day, September 11.

“When the Guard got involved, they took over transport of three cars,” said Clifton Bradford, of Docupak, the company that runs the tour. “The other two are in Minneapolis and Kentucky right now.”

“The car was actually raced by Mark Martin last year,” said Bradford, “but hasn’t been raced this year. It’s probably retired.”

Transporting the racecar around the country is certainly more than a one-man undertaking, and Bradford is regularly staffed by some of the best to help him with the three-hour set-up of the disply.

“I usually have six to eight National Guard servicemembers who volunteer to travel with me,” said Bradford. “They go out for 21 days with a driver, and then switch with other volunteers.”

The volunteers come out of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and on this trip will be making stops in West Virginia, Connecticut and Massachusetts before returning home for regular duty.

Biffle does not regularly tour with any of the vehicles, said Bradford, but has appeared at three venues to sign autographs. While attendance varies greatly by venue, and is never hurt by the appearance of the car’s featured driver, Bradford was pleased with the reaction the car got while supporting its main sponsor.

Mystical music: Connecticut resident performs at Family

Spc. JORDAN E. WERME
65TH PCH

Thousands of Soldiers, Airmen and family members gathered at Camp Rell on September 11, for Family Day – a day of fun, sun, celebration ... and music.

Among the music featured during the event was Stephanie Eisley, an up-and-coming Country singer from Mystic. Eisley is the daughter of retired Navy Chief Tom Eisley, who spent many years of service at the Naval Submarine Base at Groton.

“When I heard that today was a military appreciation day,” said Eisley, “I remembered how much this sort of thing meant to me and my family.”

“The military has been a big part of Steph’s life,” said Dana Eisley, Stephanie’s mother. “She wanted to do this, to let them have fun, to help the Soldiers have a great time.”

During her sets, Eisley showcased her award-winning talents by performing several of her own songs, and a few more widely known, such as Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the U.S.A.”

“I looked out and saw a woman crying,” said Eisley. “I realized how important this was. These people are coming out here after making those sacrifices.”

Eisley has been performing with her current band for more than three years and has appeared with nationally recognized stars such as Sammy Kershaw and renowned songwriter Barry Manilow. Eisley has been playing throughout Connecticut for several years now, and continues to do so, with concert dates coming up in November at the Mohegan Sun’s Wolf Den arena, among others. For more information, visit www.stephanieeisley.com.



Stephanie Eisley performed for the thousands of Soldiers, Airmen and families gathered to celebrate Family Day at Camp Rell, September 11. Among Eisley’s performances was “God Bless the U.S.A.” by Lee Greenwood, a song written during the first Gulf War and made more potent by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. (Photo by Spc. Jordan E. Werme, 65th PCH)

Nett Leadership Hall ribbon cut by namesake



Governor's Day at Camp Rell marked an historic occasion as the newly constructed Robert B. Nett Leadership Hall was dedicated. On hand to cut the ribbon officially opening the new training site was Col. (Ret.) Robert B. Nett, Governor M. Jodi Rell, Mrs. Frances Nett, Brig. Gen. Thaddeus Martin and Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno.

Nett is the Connecticut Army National Guard's only living recipient of the Medal of Honor and came in from Fort Benning, Georgia to be part of the ceremony dedicating the building named in his honor.

The new building is more than 6,400 square feet and able to hold large conferences, meetings and training classes.

Out of view in the photograph, but holding each end of the ceremonial ribbon were Nett's grandchildren, Ericka and Nicholas Nett.

During the ceremonies, Nett received a ceremonial gold shovel from the ground-breaking ceremony he attended in 2003, a brick and a postage stamp with his likeness on it. A marble plaque was also presented which will hang in the building.

(Photo by Spc. Jesse J. Stanley, 65th PCH)

The little A-10 that could...and does

STAFF SGT. CAROLYN ASELTON
103RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Amid the military aircraft, little utility vehicles and specially-painted NASCAR race car at Governor's Day Sept. 11 was a combination of all three: the 103rd Fighter Wing's miniature A-10.

The miniature A-10 is a nearly one-quarter-scale replica of a real A-10, built over a three-wheeled utility car and is used by the wing for public events. The wing also has a miniature F-16, which was built first and is the reason the little A-10 exists.

"It started basically with people asking, 'Why do we have a little '16 and not an A-10?'"



Staff Sgt. Jim Guadagnoli, aircraft structural repair technician, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, "flies" the miniature A-10 in a parade in July. Though it was a firefighter's parade, its chairperson, Master Sgt. Harry Daniel, aircraft maintenance craftsman, 103rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, said he invited the miniature A-10 and F-16 to participate to give the unit recognition. (Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Guadagnoli, 103rd Maintenance Squadron)

said Staff Sgt. Jim Guadagnoli, aircraft structural repair technician, 103rd Maintenance Squadron, who helped build and now drives the little A-10.

Building it was a joint effort among different shops on base beginning in 2001.

Tech. Sgt. Gary Althen located the frame, and after funds were found, it was purchased and work began. The aerospace ground equipment shop stripped the body down and got the engine running. The machine shop fabricated the frame.

On Sept. 6 of that year, Guadagnoli's first daughter, Faith, was stillborn. In his grief he found himself putting a lot of work into the project. It now bears his daughter's name as assistant crew chief and as a member of Angel Flight. Some people see it and ask about it, he said. "It kind of helps to tell them about it."

The majority of the work was completed while most of the 103rd was deployed overseas in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, but subsided when the unit returned.

"When they came back it was kind of hectic with all the planes that needed work from the desert," Guadagnoli said.

With more than 300 work hours put into its making, the miniature A-10 made its debut during Connecticut Day at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield in September of last year. It has also been to a veteran's home, in parades, to a car show and at Bradley's Space and Aviation Day. It even won an award at its last parade. Its next appearance is scheduled for Oct. 16 in the Windsor Locks 150th anniversary celebration parade.

The wings come off the little A-10 for transportation on a trailer to the different events. Guadagnoli said he is in search of a trailer big enough to carry both the A-10 and F-16. He said he would also like to see the recruiters use the miniature when they go to different venues.

"We built it mostly for public interest and recruiting purposes. We would like to get involved more with the towns surround the base," he said.

Master Sgt. Ivan Anglero, recruiter, 103rd Fighter Wing, said he would look into using it. "I think it would be advantageous," he said. "I think it would get people's attention."

Guadagnoli said he has fun with the mini and enjoys seeing "a little spark in a kid's eyes" when he climbs in and out of it. "Watching little kids and adults get excited over something we have built makes it all worthwhile."

The mini is nearly one-quarter scale of a real A-10 and is fitted with authentic gun parts, number and tail markings, and has the pilot's name, Col. Brad Lee, painted on the side. But no qualified pilots will ever fly this A-10.

"They asked 'When can we get our hands on it?' and I told them they can't, they drive the real ones," Guadagnoli said.

103^d ACS a key player around the world

LT. COL. PAMELA K. TITUS
JFHQ-PA

The 103^d Air Control Squadron has been responding to constant activations since the Sept 11, 2001 attacks.

“Within hours of the attack we were called,” said Chief Master Sergeant Albert A. Hunt, maintenance superintendent for the squadron. Radar from the 103^d ACS was used to monitor New York City and the surrounding airspace, as the unit was the eyes and ears for homeland security.

The unit served on active duty from Oct. 2, 2001 through Aug. 31, 2002 in direct support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE at home station and various other locations throughout the continental United States. The unit provided an air Picture to the Northeast Air Defense Sector (NEADS) as well as surveillance technicians to monitor the skies above “ground zero”.

The following spring the unit was activated again, only this time the unit deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The unit worked in a joint environment with both the 82nd Airborne and the 10th Mountain Divisions providing situational awareness via the only radar picture in southern Afghanistan for theater commanders.

Shortly after being released from this second “real-world” activation, the unit was again tasked to support Operation NOBLE

EAGLE as the lead unit for National Capitol Region (NCR) air defense. The NCR is part of the homeland defense of the Washington, D.C. vicinity. “It’s a day-to-day mission, even minute-to-minute. It’s as real as it gets,” said Hunt and Master Sergeant Debra A. Weeks, information management supervisor.

“They have to make decisions in a very short amount of time,” Hunt said.

The NCR is a joint operation. “I’ve enjoyed working in the joint team with the Army,” said Weeks.

Many of the 103^d members completed service in Afghanistan for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and went directly to the NCR deployment as the unit has been providing on-going support of the effort.

The 103^d was deployed to Afghanistan from April to December 2003 as part of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Unit members also were deployed as part of a joint expeditionary forces experiment from March 2004 to August 2004 to test equipment and systems for air control squadrons.

The 103^d was the lead ACS unit in support of sister units from the 128th ACS of Volk Field, Wisconsin and the 134th ACS of McConnell, Kansas and augmentees from the Air Control community for numerous exercises from June 2004 to Sept 2004.

Simultaneously, the unit participated in

Grecian Firebolt from June 12, 2004 to June 26, 2004. This was a joint exercise with the Air and Army, active and guard members, FEMA, Military Amateur Radio Service and homeland defense departments.

Grecian Firebolt was an exercise to demonstrate data and communications networks world-wide and to test new initiatives such as voice over IP, increased data systems, increased voice and data capabilities, and higher data rates.

“We provided six satellite terminals in five states,” said Master Sergeant Barry T. Jones, wideband satellite and telemetry supervisor. “The active Army usually does their long-haul communications, but the ACS community has supplemented the communications because of Army activations.”

“It’s as close to real-world training as it gets,” said Jones. “We provided 24-hour connectivity for the two weeks for numerous Army exercises, and joint exercises. The exercise serviced thousands in the field.”

“The 103^d was a key player in providing all of the communications support. Without their participant, the exercise would not have come off,” said Hunt.

All sections from the 103^d have supported these deployments.

It is a different world for newer members. “A lot of younger folks are getting their training in theater,” said Jones.



Commentary: *It's our job to keep terrorists guessing*

STAFF SGT. JULIE WECKERLEIN, USAF
SPECIAL TO AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy, Sept. 15, 2004 — Sitting one row behind me next to the window, she blended in with the other travelers, casually dressed in jeans and a long-sleeved white shirt layered under a pink short-sleeved shirt.

We, and about 150 other airline passengers, were leaving Detroit for a long flight to Amsterdam Aug. 20. She carried a book, “My Greatest Mistake,” and a diamond stud shimmered from the top of her left earlobe. She was obviously a 20-something-year-old American with a round face and long California-blond hair, but I would have never guessed she was military.

As it turned out, I didn’t need to guess. Within minutes after takeoff, she was telling her neighbor, a blond man who spoke with a heavy accent, all about her destination — Aviano Air Base, Italy.

Granted, her neighbor had asked where she was going. But instead of giving a safe, generic answer, she went into a great detail about her job, about her enlistment, about the base and local villages. She shared her feelings of being stationed overseas. The man seemed impressed by her excitement.

I was convinced she was coming from tech school, especially when I later saw her carry-on — it was a dark-blue bag with “United States Air Force” printed neatly in bold, gold

letters on the top. But, then again, she knew a lot about the Aviano area and the base; maybe she had an awesome sponsor. She must be new, I thought.

Yet, I later saw on her wrist an Italian charm bracelet, exactly the kind they sell at the Aviano base exchange. I knew then that this girl was active duty with some time spent at Aviano.

I doubt she ever had heard the name of Robert Dean Stethem, but she could learn from the incident to which his name is forever tied.

Terrorists hijacked TWA Flight 847 as it left Athens, Greece, for Rome June 14, 1985. Onboard was Petty Officer Stethem, known as Robbie to his friends. He was a 23-year-old U.S. Navy underwater construction diver returning from a diving school in Greece. He sat in the window seat in the last row on the left side of the plane, next to Clinton Suggs, one of his diving buddies.

A few minutes after takeoff, terrorists ran down the aisles, brandishing weapons and demanding all passports and identification. Unfortunately, Robbie and Suggs had only their military identification cards.

According to court documents, Robbie

hesitated handing it over, but the terrorists demanded the cards. Robbie, Clinton and a few other military members were then rounded up and taken to first class.

What followed was a 15-hour ordeal as the airliner was flown to Beirut, Lebanon, then to Algiers, Algeria, then back to Beirut.

During this time, Robbie was brutally tortured with pistols and an armrest. Kenneth Bowen, another diver held captive, later testified that Robbie received most of the torture.

Things took a turn for the worse during the second stop in Beirut.

When terrorists were unable to negotiate for a refueling truck, they dragged Robbie to the front of the plane and shot him. The terrorists then opened the door of the plane, and as media cameras focused on the open door, they shot Robbie again and dumped his body on the tarmac. Robbie remained alive for a few minutes after being shot and thrown, and then died from his wounds.

The image of the terrorists standing at the open door, with Robbie’s blood smeared on the outside of the plane was published repeatedly on television and in newspapers. It became a symbol of the turbulent political

relations between America and the Middle East during the 1980s. The terrorists were from the Middle East, and one of the many reasons they targeted Robbie was because he was U.S. military.

Though this specific incident happened nearly 20 years ago, consider the similarities. Tensions between the American military and the Middle East are high right now. As recently as last month, terrorist groups made threats against Italy and the Italian government.

What if the blond man with the heavy accent had been a terrorist supporter? Or what if, in an effort to save his own life during a hijacking, he pointed the young woman out as U.S. military? What if someone overheard her details about Aviano and took that information to a terrorist group? What if someone was trying to find out if the Amsterdam airport gets a lot of American military traffic? What if someone at the airport saw her Air Force bag and decided to make her a target?

We can’t always predict a terrorist’s action, but we can protect ourselves to the best of our abilities by not revealing information about our jobs, the military, reasons for travel or other information. We should always keep them guessing.

(Editor’s Note: Air Force Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein is a member of 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs.)

Sitting one row behind me next to the window, she blended in with the other travelers, casually dressed in jeans and a long-sleeved white shirt layered under a pink short-sleeved shirt.

Lessons learned, and shared, by someone who's been there

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. JEFF BUTLER
16TH MP BDE (ABN)

Soldiers,

First I want to say that I am glad to be here today. As you know my M1114 UAH vehicle was struck by an IED on 8 Sep 04, while traveling on MSR Sword south of CP45 in Baghdad.

The blast damaged the left rear quarter panel and tire, started the vehicle on fire, and caused the vehicle to swerve out of control. We then rolled over three times before coming to a rest back on all four wheels.

Thanks to the heroic actions of numerous Soldiers, to include those from the Bde JAG and CLD, Bde PSD, 21st MP Company MSR Patrol, and 1st Cav QRF, my driver and gunner were stabilized and medevaced from the scene, the scene was controlled, all possible sensitive items and personal equipment were recovered, and security was maintained so the convoy elements could return to base and reconsolidate.

The final outcome was that all vehicle occupants received relatively minor injuries and the vehicle was the key major loss as it continued to burn to a shell. As I have reflected over this for the past few days I am thankful for some of the safety measures that were in place that greatly contributed to our surviving this incident.

We repeatedly put out safety messages and guidance and hope that all Soldiers understand the importance of them. When nothing happens to you while out on your mission these safety requirements may seem unnecessary but I am here to testify to their effectiveness when it counts.

I want to list and discuss some of these safety factors and TTPs;

Route Position- Vehicle should travel in the middle of the lane as much as possible. We

were traveling straddling the line between the left and center lanes. We adopted this technique so the rear vehicle blocks traffic from passing on the left side. The blast came from the median and this location created some distance between us and the device. Ideally we would have been in the center lane so I am looking at adjusting my PSD blocking technique.

Movement Techniques- Maintain proper distance while traveling based on conditions. As our three-vehicle convoy was moving down open highway we had approx. 75-100 meters between vehicles. This made the ability to attack more than one vehicle impossible.

Gunner Position- Gunner was at nametag defilade. Bde and Corps have repetitively put this out as the standard. You must survive the IED or first attack to be able to fight back. I still see gunners throughout Iraq standing, creating a large profile for the enemy to strike. In our case the gunner was then blown by the concussion back into the vehicle where he remained as we rolled. Any other position would have killed him.

Gunner Position #2- Front and rear gunners must position themselves at the 3 or 9 o'clock position. Our attacks are coming primarily by an IED initiation from the shoulder or median. A gunner turned to the 12 or 6 o'clock position exposes his sides to the threat. A gunner at the 3 or 9 has the gunners shield towards one side and the hatch toward the other. My gunner had his back to the blast. The hatch took shrapnel and a hole that punched through on the upper portion of the hatch which would have struck a standing gunner.

AT4 Location- Bde has put out that the



Command Sgt. Maj. Jeff Butler took this photo of his vehicle shortly after it came under attack in Baghdad. He is using this photo and his experiences to try and help save lives of other Soldiers who are deployed in the Global War on Terrorism. (Photo courtesy Command Sgt. maj. Jeff Butler)

AT4 will not be placed on the hatch atop the vehicle and will be maintained in the passenger compartment. Ours was in the vehicle as required and able to be recovered after the incident. Soldiers think that it looks cool on the hatch but realistically can not be fired any quicker than if kept in the compartment. What the hatch storing does do is create another hazard for the crew when attacked. An explosive next to the gunner's head is not smart and the hatch stored AT4 is routinely lost or damaged during an IED attack.

Seatbelts- All seated occupants must wear seatbelts. I and the passenger in the right rear seat were belted in. This was critical as we were secured as we rolled over. I know I would have been seriously injured and likely killed if I were not. Unfortunately my driver was not wearing his seatbelt. He routinely does and I did not ensure that he did so this time as we moved out on the mission. Supervisors must be critical of their crew and protect them. The driver did manage to stabilize himself by holding the steering wheel throughout the roll over.

Goggles/Glasses- All occupants need to wear protective eyewear. Flying debris, shrapnel, and later exploding ammunition all were hazards that threatened our eyesight. Each Soldier in my crew was wearing their Wiley Xs or gunners goggles.

Sensitive Item List/Load Plan- Strict accountability of crew's sensitive items must be submitted and tracked prior to departing base camp. Maintain this list back at base not in the vehicle itself. This made accountability and reporting of

damaged and destroyed sensitive items a smooth process. My vehicle burned and recovery of radios and other items was not possible.

Comments- We did not do everything possible correct and we were not perfect.

-In hindsight I would recommend all doors be battle locked for all travel. My driver's door as well as the left rear door was opened by the blast or the rolling.

-We needed to know where the driver kept the keys to the radios. Prior to the cab being overwhelmed by flames we possibly, although at great risk, could have gotten the radios out. The driver was unconscious and could not tell us. Develop an SOP so all occupants know that they are in the front left pocket of the driver for example.

-Vehicle compartment load should be secured and strapped as much as possible. Ammo cans and other items can hurt when they become projectiles.

Final Message- All 16th MP Bde units will cover these safety requirements and use me as the example or reason. I've attached a photo of my vehicle taken about ten minutes after the incident and another from the internet that somehow got taken by an Iraqi newsman that appears to be about fifteen minutes later. I and my crew are very fortunate to be here and hopefully others can learn from our example. If any unit would like for me to come and discuss this with your units I would welcome the invitation. Thanks to everyone for your concern and caring. Continue the great job that all of you are doing and Stay Safe! Feel free to pass this one to anyone that you think can benefit from it.

(Editor's Note: This first-hand account came to the Guardian through official DoD email channels, with a request that it be given the widest possible dissemination.)



The command sergeant major's vehicle about 10 minutes after the attack as it appeared on the internet. (Photo courtesy Command Sgt. Maj. Jeff Butler)

Focus: *Joint & Expeditionary: Army gets there fast, but not alone*

SGT. 1ST CLASS MARCIA TRIGGS

(Editor’s note: This is the ninth article in a weekly series on the 17 Army focus areas.)

The Army’s chief and acting secretary were asked by a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee if seamen and airmen were being requested to perform Army duties in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“I’m not aware of any such request. But we’re looking for capabilities across the force to relieve the Army,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker while testifying on Capitol Hill last month. “We fight jointly ... it makes perfect sense for the other services to give the Army a reprieve.”

Schoomaker spent only a couple of minutes trying to explain to members of Congress that the Army is part of a joint force, but he has given Training and Doctrine Command a long-term directive to architect a campaign that will get Soldiers to embody a joint and expeditionary mindset.

The Army has included joint training in its school for senior officers for a few years now, but the service will soon start teaching joint tactics earlier in the careers of both commissioned and noncommissioned officers, Simpson said.

Blue Force Tracking, a command and control system, is an example of how junior military persons are talking to each other, officials said. From company to theater level commanders, Blue Force Tracking is being used to provide situational awareness and

digital command and control for the Army, Marine Corps and Coalition forces, said Michael Lebrun from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, & Technology).

“The core of the program is its software,” Lebrun said. “Inside of the platform is a digital map that gives you your location. It can also tell you where any other Blue Force Tracking equipped platform is in the area of operations.”

It’s the first part of reducing the risk of fratricide, Lebrun said. It provides better information on where friendly forces are, and it allows forces to plan better, react better and do a lot of things to mitigate the risk of fratricide, he concluded.

In the near future hand-held versions of Blue Force Tracking will be fielded in Iraq, Lebrun said.

“A Joint and Expeditionary Army with a Campaign Quality ” is one of the Army’s focus areas. “Basically we want to maximize each services’ capabilities and prepare leaders and Soldiers to fight in uncertain and ambiguous environments. The Joint and Expeditionary Task Force is the lens through which we filter many of our transformation efforts,” said Bob Simpson, the deputy of the Joint and Expeditionary task force.

Joint Forces Command in concert with the services is refining Joint National Training Capability, which will integrate joint training similar to the way the Army has integrated combined arms training at its combat training

centers for some years, Simpson said. And TRADOC is very much involved in the effort, Simpson added.

JNTC was first conceived in 2002, but is now taking a more robust approach to train joint forces, according to the U.S. Forces Joint Command Web site. Included in the training will be real people in real locations using real equipment; real people in simulators and simulated entities in a simulated environment, according to the Web site.

DoD is not constructing another training center, but is combining live, virtual and constructive training to create a joint training capability that will eventually include capabilities resident at the installation level, Simpson said. However, right now the focus is starting the capability at Fort Irwin, Calif., and the other Service’s Western Ranges he said.

Officers and NCOs can also expect to see joint education initiated earlier in their professional development schools, Simpson said. Leaders have to see themselves as members of a joint profession, he said. The specifics are being decided in a consensus environment with the other services, Simpson added.

“One of the things about each of the services is that they have unique cultures, and one thing that defines a culture is language,” Simpson said.

“So part of this process will be to define a common joint language. An important part

of the process is integrating service and joint doctrine.”

The second piece of the focus area is expeditionary, and Simpson said that Soldiers must realize that the Army’s normal state is to be at war.

“We first started trying to change the mindset of the Soldier to a joint and expeditionary one by introducing them to the Warriors Ethos and the Soldiers Creed,” Simpson said. “The creeds reinforce that they are part of a great Army team.”

“I am a Warrior and a member of a team ... I stand ready to deploy, engage and destroy the enemies of the United States of America,” states the Soldiers Creed. These words will unconsciously remind Soldiers and leaders that they have to be comfortable with uncertainty, Simpson said.

“Soldiers can’t expect to go into a theater where there is an iron mountain of logistics and every pre-condition has been set,” Simpson said. “We don’t have a front or a rear, all of our Soldiers deploying into any theater from now on will be in harm’s way regardless of where they are on the battlefield.”

TRADOC has the lead and is working to change the Army’s doctrine, organization, training and leader development. However, Simpson said, every commander has the responsibility to start training all Soldiers to be riflemen first.

Post Exchange back at old location: Bigger, better, brighter, growing

SGT. JEFF AUSTIN
65th PCH

The Post Exchange (PX) at Camp Rell has reopened at its original site just in time to serve patrons during the Governor’s Day event on Sept. 11.

According to PX Manager Sandra Blackstone, the move has been very stressful because of the expectation of serving hundreds of people on a special day.

“I just wanted everything to work out,” said Blackstone.

Civilian employees from other posts helped Blackstone to put together the PX in time for its grand opening on Sept. 11.

According to Blackstone, it took five weeks for the maintenance crew to repair the PX.

The problems with the PX first began on Jan. 11 when a pipe burst over one of the coolers causing water to flood the entire store and destroying hundreds of dollars worth of merchandise and weaken the structure of the store. It took approximately eight hours to pump all of the water out of the store during a time that Blackstone described as the coldest day of the year.

The PX was subsequently moved to another location, building 65, for six months while plans for repair was under way at the original site.

According to Blackstone the new PX is better than the old PX because of the stronger structure, increase storage space and better lights.

Blackstone has future plans to increase the number of products available to servicemembers since shelf space has also increased. Future plans have been to provide a larger selection of electronic products to store patrons.

Blackstone reiterated her thoughts of the support she received from the Training Site Command, Soldiers and Airmen who supported her through this difficult time.

“I just want to say thank you for all your help,” said Blackstone.

The future seems bright for the renovated PX at Camp Rell. To view the store or to purchase items, store hours are 10am to 5pm weekdays and Saturdays. Sundays are 10am to 4pm.

For more information contact Sandy Blackstone at 860-739-9672.



COMMISSARY & EXCHANGE DIRECTORY

Here is a current directory of area commissaries and exchanges along with their phone numbers. Always call ahead to verify hours as they may change without notice. A valid i.d. card is necessary to use these facilities. Contact your unit administrator if you or your dependants need a card. If you have trouble, contact the State Family Program Office at 1-800-858-2677.

CAMP ROWLAND POST EXCHANGE

MONDAY: Closed
TUESDAY – SATURDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
SUNDAY: 10:00 – 4:00
Phone: (860) 739-9672

COAST GUARD STATION

120 Woodward Avenue
New Haven, CT
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9:00 – 4:30
SATURDAY: 9:00 – 2:00
SUNDAY: Closed
Phone: (203) 468-2712

WESTOVER AIR FORCE BASE

Chicopee, Mass.
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
SATURDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
SUNDAY: 11:00 – 5:00
Phone: (413) 593-5583

COAST GUARD ACADEMY

New London
MONDAY – FRIDAY: 9:00 – 5:00
SATURDAY: 9:00 – 3:00
SUNDAY: Closed
Phone: (860) 444-8488

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

East Granby
TUESDAY – FRIDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
SATURDAY: 10:00 – 4:00
SUNDAY & MONDAY: Closed
UTAs: Open Saturday &
Sunday: 10:00 – 5:00
Phone: (860) 653-6994

SUB BASE, NEW LONDON

Exchange Hours:
MON., TUES., WED., FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 9:00 – 7:00
SATURDAY & SUNDAY: 9:00 – 5:00
HOLIDAYS: 9:00 – 4:00
Phone: (860) 694-3811
Commissary Hours:
MONDAY: Closed
TUE., WED. & FRI.: 9:00 – 6:00
THURSDAY: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.
SATURDAY: 8:00 – 5:00
SUNDAY: 10:00 – 5:00
Phone: (860) 694-2244

Army moves up fielding of Future Combat Systems

GARY SHEFTICK
ARMY NEWS SERVICE

"The guy in the middle is the Soldier...and if we don't do all that we can to make his life better, then we have failed."

Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac

The Army plans to accelerate the fielding of some Future Combat Systems such as armed robotic vehicles, unattended ground sensors and unattended munitions.

The Army is taking advantage of leaps and bounds in wireless technology to "spiral" FCS development, said Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac, military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. He said spiraling allows for a more flexible approach to system development, to add technology as it emerges.

"The Army evolves by putting future ideas forward as they become available," Yakovac said.

Army leaders also plan to field sooner, to more of the force, an automation network known as the "System of Systems Common

Operating Environment," or SOSCOE. Yakovac likened SOSCOE to the "windows" operating system of a computer, but infinitely larger, and said the network will allow units to "plug and play" the FCS pieces.

"We are basically building the Internet you use every day and moving it into battle space," Yakovac said. He added that it's a big challenge to make that network secure, yet accessible by all Soldiers and integrated with all systems.

Future Combat System technology will be inserted into the brigade-sized units of action the Army is establishing, said Brig. Gen. Charles Cartwright, program manager for the FCS UAs. He said one of the UAs will be selected as an "experimental unit" to test all the new FCS technology in 2008. A projected 32 of the 43 UAs will be fielded with some FCS capabilities by 2014, he said.

Over the life of the FCS program (2025 plus), 15 selected UAs will become FCS Units of Action, Cartwright said. These units will be fielded with all 18 of the Future Combat Systems, he said, and they will have extraordinary capabilities.

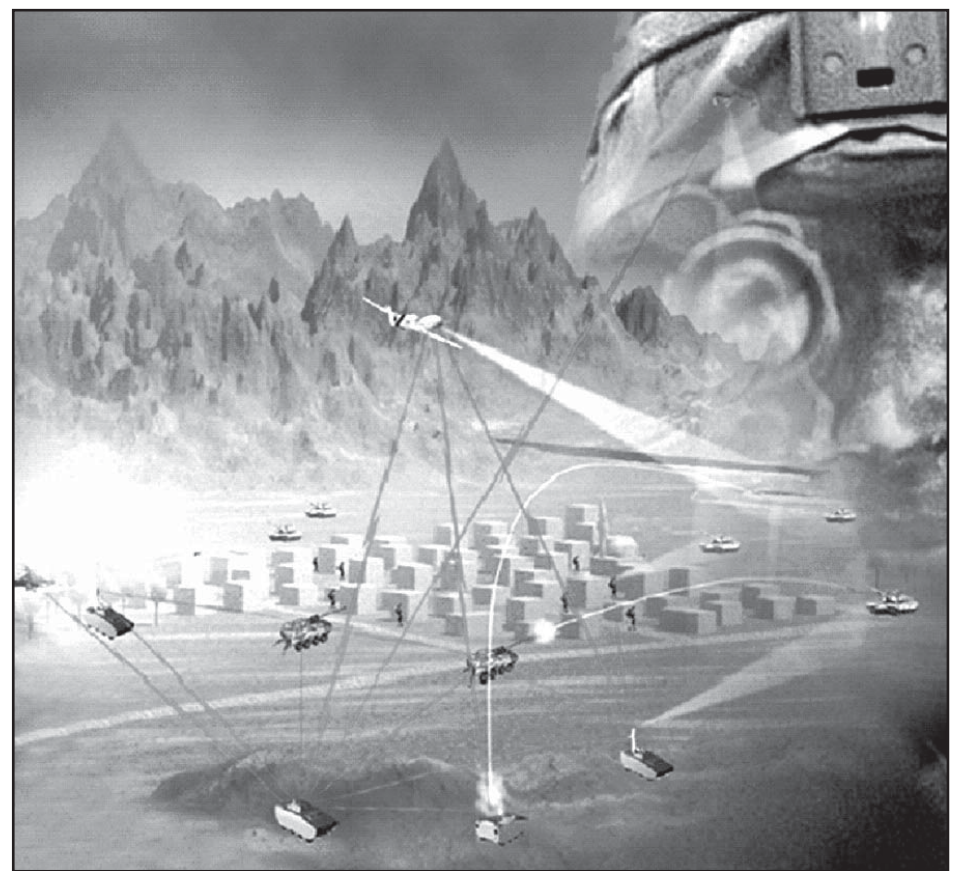
The rest of the modular UAs are still slated to receive the network and some of the FCS developments. For instance, the Non-Line of Sight Launch System, or "rockets in a box," as Yakovac called them, are intended to be fielded widely. This pod of missiles can be aimed and fired from miles away.

The unmanned sensors and robotic vehicles are also intended for wide dissemination, officials said. In fact, they said a small unmanned robotic vehicle is already being used today in Iraq and Afghanistan to detect mines.

Part of this week's FCS announcement included "buying back" five of the Future Combat Systems that had been previously deferred. Added back to the FCS list are:

- o Armed Robotic Vehicles (ARV Assault and ARV RSTA [Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Target Acquisition])
- o Recovery and Maintenance Vehicle
- o Intelligent Munitions Systems
- o Class II Unmanned Air Vehicles (medium size)
- o Class IV UAVs (capable of large payloads of both sensors and weapons and able to hover like a helicopter to maneuver up, down and sideways.)

In order to fund the development of the five new systems, the rate of purchase for the eight manned FCS vehicles will be slowed down slightly, officials said. But research and development for all the FCS vehicles will continue on schedule, Yakovac said.



Graphic depicts how the network will link different Future Combat Systems.

A "demonstration" version of the first manned FCS vehicle, the Non-Line of Sight Cannon, is now being tested at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. The NLOS Cannon vehicle has a 155mm weapon and weighs less than 24 tons.

It's light, but can handle recoil, said Daniel Pierson, who works for the assistant secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology).

The current NLOS Cannon vehicle runs on rubber tracks, but Yakovac stressed that the decision has not yet been made whether the manned FCS vehicles will be tracked or wheeled.

"We're looking to combine the best of both (wheeled and tracked capabilities) in these vehicles," Yakovac said.

Another change announced this week is that all manned vehicles will receive active protective systems. Yakovac said that decision stems from lessons learned in Iraq.

"In a 360-degree fight, everything needs protection," Yakovac said, even support vehicles.

"A lot of capability can be brought to a vehicle by software," Yakovac said. For instance, he said the FCS vehicles will have digital command and control, automatic target acquisition, the Joint Tactical Radio System, and the Warfighter Information System – Tactical, known as WIN-T, and more.

Officials plan to field the first FCS vehicles in 2008 and spiral the development to most of the Army by 2025. In the meantime, however, and for years into the future, the M-1 Abrams tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicle and other current weapons systems will remain important, said Lt. Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, Army deputy chief of staff for Programs, G8.

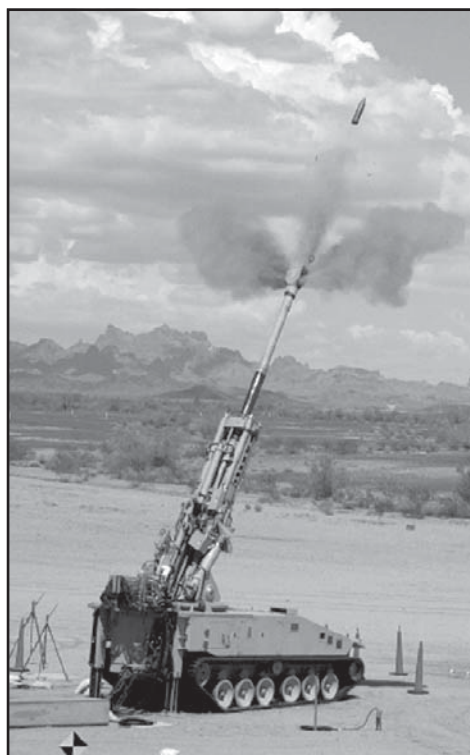
Other Future Combat Systems include:

- o Infantry Carrier Vehicle
- o Command and Control Vehicle
- o Mounted Combat System
- o Recon and Surveillance Vehicle
- o Non-Line of Sight Mortar
- o NLOS Cannon
- o NLOS Launch System
- o Medical Treatment and Evacuation vehicle
- o Unattended Ground Sensors
- o Class I UAVs (small)
- o Class III UAVs (fixed-wing)
- o unmanned Countermine MULEs
- o unmanned Transport MULEs

When talking about FCS, Yakovac often refers to "18 systems plus one." The one is the "network," he explained.

The Soldier is going to be "a node in the network," Yakovac said.

"The guy in the middle is the Soldier..." he said "and if we don't do all that we can to make his life better, then we have failed."



A demonstrator version of the NLOS Cannon fires its 155mm projectile at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.



Record of Connecticut Men in the War of Rebellion

Editor's Note: This is the tenth monthly installment of the history of Connecticut's service in the Civil war, as published in the RECORD OF SERVICE OF CONNECTICUT MEN IN THE WAR OF REBELLION, 1861 TO 1865, from the History of the Second Connecticut Volunteers written by Gen. James B. Coit, Private IN Co. B. (Transcribed by Staff Sergeant Brett W. Wilson, Administrative Assistant to the USPFO for Connecticut)

On May 23d an incident occurred illustrating the spirit which pervaded the regiment. Six soldiers returning from veteran volunteer furlough were passing Wilson's Landing when an attack was made upon a small garrison there stationed. The boat landed and these men most gallantly served a 10-pounder Parrott, which had been abandoned, until the enemy was repulsed. Theirs was the only gun not silenced.

On June 23d the regular train arrived from Washington, and the siege began in earnest. Space is lacking to adequately describe what, in many of the batteries, was for days at a time a continuous engagement. For details and especially for mention of individuals, reference is made to the reports of General Abbot in the annual reports of the Adjutant-General of Connecticut for the years 1865 and 1866; and for the professional results of the regimental experience, to Prof. Papers No. 14, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

During these operations the siege train was organized as a separate brigade under Colonel Abbot, such additional troops as were needed being temporarily attached. The aggregate at times exceeded 3,500 men; the train contained 127 guns and seventy-three mortars; the line of batteries was seventeen miles long; over 1,200 tons of ammunition (63,940 rounds), hauled an average distance of seven miles by wagon, were fired during the siege.

The depot, under command of Major Hatfield, was at Broadway Landing on the Appomattox River, where the needful wharves and some strong earth-works for defense were built. The guns not in use were kept afloat, and he was supplied with about twenty schooners and barges, a steam tug, and a permanent train of fifty Government wagons, often largely increased. The guns were moved by four light artillery teams of Company M, First Pennsylvania Artillery, attached to the depot. Ammunition was forwarded daily as needed, the amount being regulated by telegraph.

For batteries serving on the lines of the Army of the Potomac, Colonel Abbot reported to the Chief of Artillery, General Hunt; and for those on the lines of the Army of the James, direct to its commanding general. Orders at times were received from General Grant in person. The batteries, in groups, were commanded by the field officers of the regiment; rations were supplied by the regimental commissary; and the sick were cared for in a special field hospital at Broadway Landing. This system worked admirably, and gave to the First Connecticut Artillery an independent and responsible position.

The first siege operations culminated in the battle of Petersburg Mine, on July 30th. On this occasion eighty-one guns and mortars were served by Companies A, B, C, D, P, G, I, and M, First Connecticut Artillery, and Companies C, H, and K, Fourth New York Artillery. About seventy-five tons of ammunition (3,833 rounds) were fired in the battle, and 225 tons (12,229 rounds) in the preliminary work. This battle was probably the first in which spherical case-shot was used from mortars. The novel expedient of putting thirty 12-pound canister shot under the bursting charge of a 10-inch shell proved very effective.

Immediately after the battle a projected movement of the Army of the Potomac required fifty-two heavy guns and mortars, with all their ammunition, etc., to be moved with urgent haste from the fronts of the Fifth, Ninth, and Eighteenth Corps to the depot, a distance of eight miles. This was accomplished in twenty-seven hours. Twenty-two light artillery and mule teams, and 170 wagons, were employed. The aggregate weight removed was 225 tons and the work was done by the companies which had served the guns in the action. The enemy did not discover the movement, which began at midnight of July 30th.

The siege now took the form of bombardment. The average weight of metal thrown daily was: August, 5.2 tons; September, 7.8 tons; October, 4.5 tons; November, 2.7 tons; December, 2.1 tons; January, 1.6 tons; and February, 1.1 tons—aggregating 793 tons (37,264 rounds). Near Petersburg sudden artillery battles occurred at all hours of the day and night, often involving the entire line. To check an annoying enfilade fire from the left bank of the Appomattox, a 13 inch seacoast mortar was mounted on a reinforced platform car and served on a curve of the railroad track by Company G. This novelty was widely known as the "Petersburg Express."

Dutch Gap was also the scene of much firing,

occasionally with the Confederate fleet and often with their land batteries. At the canal, Company C fired about 4,000 shots. Captain Pierce, on the night of October 21st, surprised the rebel fleet lying in Graveyard Bend. Three 30-pounder and four 20-pounder Parrotts were placed in position under cover of darkness, and fire was opened at daylight at a range of 1,500 yards. It is stated in "The Confederate States Navy," by J. T. Scharf, that a gun-carriage was struck on the gunboat "Drewry," wounding five men; that the "Virginia" (ironclad) was struck seven times; that the "Richmond" (ironclad) was struck more frequently, her smoke-stack being shot away; and that the "Fredericksburg" (ironclad) fared still worse, a few plates being started and six men wounded. We are also credited by the

author with having "several 100-pounder Parrotts" in this action, which he calls "the most severe test to which the squadron had been subjected." Still more valuable was the service rendered by the First Connecticut

Artillery on the night of January 23, 1865, when the Confederate fleet made a determined attempt to pass down James River to destroy our base at City Point. The only United States monitor present withdrew and left the defense to the land batteries, unsupported. These were four in number: Fort Brady, Company C, Captain Pierce, two 100-pounders and three 30-pounders; Parsons and Wilcox, Company H, First Lieutenant Pratt, one 100-pounder, and one 10-inch seacoast mortar; Spofford, Company H, Second Lieutenant Silliman, one 30-pounder; and Sawyer, Company H, First Lieutenant Mason, one 100-pounder and two 10-inch seacoast mortars. The fire from the Confederate land batteries was very heavy, but did not divert attention from the fleet. The gunboat "Drewry" was sunk by a shell from Battery Parsons, the torpedo launch "Wasp" was destroyed, and finally the fleet retired baffled in its object. This service of the regiment was highly commended by

General Grant, and he ordered the armament of the James River batteries to be at once largely increased.

Companies B, G, and L, under General Abbot, accompanied General Terry's expedition to Fort Fisher, N. C., in January, 1865, carrying a siege train of sixteen 30-pounder Parrotts and twenty Coehorn mortars, with an ample supply of ammunition; but the fort was stormed before the train could be landed, and the detachment soon returned to the lines before Richmond.

The assault upon Fort Steadman, on March 25, 1865, was the next notable incident in the history of the regiment. The fort was only two hundred yards distant from the enemy's lines, and General Gordon's columns poured over the parapet at 4 A. M. Company K, Captain Twiss, and Company L, First Lieutenant Lewis, stationed in it and the adjacent batteries, No. 10 and No. 12 suffered severely, losing 65 men. The heavy guns which could be brought to bear from batteries 4, 5, 8, 9, and Fort Haskell (all served by the First Connecticut Artillery), and the light batteries brought up by Colonel Tidball, delivered so heavy a fire upon the captured works that the enemy was driven into the bombproofs, and was finally captured about 8 A. M. by our reserves under General Hartranft. Lieutenant Lewis with Company L joined the charge, capturing one lieutenant and twelve privates of the Twenty-sixth Georgia with their battle flag, for which a medal of honor was awarded to Private G. E. McDonald. Company K, although Captain Twiss had been wounded and First Lieutenant Odell killed, rallied gallantly under Second Lieutenant Casey, joined the charge, and recaptured their mortars.

On April 2d the final assault upon the enemy's position was delivered. The First Connecticut Artillery occupied eleven forts and batteries, serving forty-nine guns and mortars, and did effective service, firing 4,257 rounds. A special detail of 100 men from Companies E, I, K, L, and M, under command of First Lieutenant Rogers and Second Lieutenants Smith, Couch, and Reynolds, armed with muskets and equipped with lanyards, fuzes, primers, etc., joined the assaulting column near Battery No. 20 and entered, among the, first, the enemy's works in front. They immediately reversed four captured light 12-pounder guns, and opened fire upon the retreating masses almost before they were out of the works. These guns, and two others, moved across the battery under a heavy fire, were served by the detachment all day and during the night most gallantly, about 800 rounds being fired. The men not required at the guns used their

ENGAGEMENTS

Siege of Yorktown, Va., April 30 to May 4, 1862.
Hanover Court House, Va., May 27, 1862.
Gaines' Mills, Va., May 31 to Juno 20, 1863.
Chickahominy, Va., June 25, 1862.
Golden Hill, Va., June 27, 1862.
Malvern. Hill, Va., July 1, 1862.
Siege of Fredericksburg, Va., Dec. 11 to 15, 1862 (Cos. B & M).
Before Fredericksburg, Va., April 38 to May 6, 1863 (Co. M),
Before Fredericksburg, Va., June 5 to June 13, 1863 (Co. M).
Kelley's Ford, Va. (Co. M), Nov. 7, 1863.
Orange Court House, Va. (Go. B), Nov. 30, 1864.
Siege of Petersburg and Richmond, Va., May, '64, to Apr., 1865.
Fort Fisher, N.C., Jan. 14 and 15, 1865 (Cos. B,Q, and L).

Connecticut Military Department News

Gen. Arnold gravestone dedicated in London

MAJ. PETER JENKIN
2nd Co., GOVERNOR'S FOOT GUARD

London, May 25, 2004: The grave of the first Commandant of New Haven's Second Company Governor's Foot Guard received a proper headstone after 203 years. Benedict Arnold died in 1801 and is buried in the basement of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Battersea, London along with his second wife Peggy and their daughter. The grave has been unmarked save for a painted inscription on the wall, slowly peeling away.

Bill Stanley, a former state senator and the president of the Norwich Historical Society, has spent years trying to get proper recognition for the Arnold. The general was a Norwich native, and until his unfortunate misadventure at West Point was the ablest general in Washington's army. After many years Sen. Stanley succeeded in procuring a suitable stone of Vermont granite, having it carved and getting the permission of the U.S. State Department, the British government, and the Church of England to place the stone before Arnold's final resting place. Sen. Stanley spent a great deal of his own funds

to accomplish the feat.

Representing the Second Company Governor's Foot Guard in the delegation from the U.S. was Maj. Peter C. Jenkin, present Commandant and the 64th since Benedict Arnold. Pfc. Patrick Higgins, one of the command's newest members, accompanied the Commandant. The major and a group of 20 people from the Norwich Historical Society made the trip. Also present at dedication services were descendants of Benedict and Peggy. A tea reception was held in the church basement following the service.

"This is more than a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Jenkin. "This is once in recorded history. 'It's truly an honor to represent Arnold's first command, and be here to recognize his contribution to Connecticut's part in the Revolution. We in the Second Foot have always recognized that when he was one of us, he was regarded as one of our brightest and best.'"

A carving of the flags of the United States and Great Britain are beneath the inscription, with their staffs crossed at the center of a laurel wreath. A leafy vine borders the inscription, with a scallop shell at the top.

The inscription on the stone reads:



Maj. Peter Jenkin and Pfc. Patrick Higgins pose in London with former Sen. Stanley. Flanking Stanley are actors playing Benedict Arnolds and his wife, Margaret. (Photo courtesy Maj. Peter Jenkin)

IN THIS CRYPT LIE THE BODIES OF
BENEDICT ARNOLD
1741-1801
SOMETIME GENERAL IN THE ARMY OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON
AND OF HIS FAITHFUL AND DEVOTED
WIFE
MARGARET SHIPPEN

AND OF THEIR BELOVED
DAUGHTER
SOPHIA MATILDA PHIPPS
THE TWO NATIONS WHOM HE
SERVED
IN TURN IN THE YEARS OF THEIR
ENMITY
HAVE UNITED IN FRIENDSHIP

DoD recognizes employers who support Guard, Reserves: *Connecticut company among those honored for employee support*

SGT. 1ST CLASS DOUG SAMPLE, USA
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

General Electric, of Fairfield, Conn. was among many companies from around the country honored by the Dept. of Defense for their employee support.

With nearly 180,000 reserve-component members on active duty, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz called on employers of National Guard and Reserve members to continue their support.

Those forces "have responded and done everything the country has asked," he said.

Wolfowitz was the keynote speaker at a Sept. 21 dinner at which this year's Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards were presented. The awards program recognizes employers that have made significant contributions to support Guard and Reserve members.

With representatives from some of the nation's largest employers seated before him, Wolfowitz said it is a "great tribute to our country that we attract such men and women to volunteer their services to our nation." He added that "it's also a tribute to the good sense of their civilian employers to recognize them as the kind of individuals they want working for their companies."

But now that those employees have been

called up, their employers must set aside their own interests to help support reservists and National Guardsmen on their payrolls, Wolfowitz said.

The event was sponsored by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Defense Department organization mostly staffed by volunteers. ESGR's mission is to gain and maintain active employer support for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve.

During his speech, the deputy defense secretary reminded the audience of the sacrifices that "citizen soldiers" have made, noting that Guardsmen and Reservists have been crucial to the force structure in Afghanistan and Iraq, while also keeping the peace in Bosnia and providing logistical support in Kosovo.

He said those missions, along with military efforts elsewhere, have placed great stress on Guard and Reserve forces. "We've had to ask people to work for longer periods, in larger numbers, and often in the face of grave hardship and danger." But, he added, "the forces have responded and done everything the country has asked them to do."

Wolfowitz acknowledged that many of the companies being recognized during the event have already gone the extra mile to support Guard and Reserve members, extending

medical benefits, making up salary differences, and establishing support mechanisms for family members of deployed servicemembers.

The Home Depot, the Atlanta based building warehouse and one of the companies recognized, set up a program to give hiring preference to injured servicemembers looking for jobs at the company.

"All of you have gone the extra mile to support our citizen soldiers," he said.

"And in a nation with employers like that, the companies we are honoring tonight really stand out.

"These companies have shown a willingness to bear financial hardship, to cope with organizational disruptions, and they have done so, according to one company manager, because it's the right thing to do," Wolfowitz continued.

"Each of these companies deserves our thanks."

Before Wolfowitz's appearance, a somber moment in the evening's events came as the names of every Guardsman and reservist killed in the war on terror scrolled over a backdrop of an American flag that was projected on two large screens.

The sound of "Taps" played in the background.

During his speech, the deputy secretary let it be known that those killed in the war had not

died in vain. He credited the military with doing a "fantastic job" in the three years since the attacks of Sept. 11.

"They have destroyed terrorist-based cells, killed or captured hundreds of terrorist and their leaders, disrupted untold numbers of plots against us and our friends, and in the process they've liberated 50 million people from oppression," he said, again drawing applause from the audience.

Besides General Electric and Home Depot, companies recognized for their support of the Guard and Reserve this year were:

American Express, New York City; Bank One Corp., Chicago; Colt Safety Fire and Rescue, St. Louis; Adolph Coors, Golden, Colo.; Harley-Davidson, Milwaukee; the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Monterey Park, Calif.; Northrop Grumman Corp., Los Angeles; Fisk Corp./One Source Building Technologies, Houston; Saints Memorial Medical Center, Lowell, Mass.; Sprint Corp., Overland Park, Kan.; The State of Minnesota, St. Paul; Strategic Solutions Inc., Walnut Creek, Calif.; and Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Bentonville, Ark., which co-sponsored the event.



Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, Adjutant General, addresses the thousands of Soldiers, Airmen and family members who gathered at Camp Rell to celebrate Family Day, September 11. The encased United States flags were presented to several individuals, businesses and others in recognition of outstanding services provided to Connecticut's military. (Photo by Spc. Jordan E. Werme, 65th PCH)

Governor's Day a welcomes home So

SGT. JEFF AUSTIN
65th PCH

Hundreds of family members and friends belonging to Army and Air National Guard units attended a commemorative event to thank servicemembers for their call to duty and personal sacrifice. The Connecticut National Guard sponsored Governor's Day on Sept. 11 at Camp Rell in Niantic. The event also gave remembrance to the victims of Sept. 11th. Governor's Day provided spouses, children and friends an opportunity to meet with each other and view the various types of military equipment servicemembers used when performing their work duties. Other events such as face painting and games were provided for children. "Yea, it's a lot of fun. I played soccer and played everywhere today," said six-year-old Ancel. His cousin, Papadopoulos said, "I came out to remember Sept. 11 and I enjoyed all the events because there was a lot to do. Ancel said he wants to join the National Guard when he gets older and wants to return to next year's Governor's Day. Helga Gonzalez, also attending Governor's Day for the first time, enjoyed the activities provided for the children. She explained how her two young children enjoyed viewing all of the different types of military trucks and aircraft on display. According to Gonzalez, she really appreciated the photo identification cards that were provided at no cost to the children in case of an emergency. She also liked the games such as the Crayon Moon Bouncer that kept her nine-year-old son occupied. The day was full of events such as entertainment by local bands, an autograph session by Ron Simmons from the World Wrestling Entertainment, and a skydiving show. Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell gave words of encouragement and personally thanked all servicemembers for their commitment to their country and state.

Children of Connecticut National Guard members enjoy playing with giant, inflatable soccer balls in one of the many amusements provided by the CTNG Family Program during Governor's Day at Camp Rell. (Photo by Spc. Jesse J. Stnale, 65th PCH)



Hundreds of United States flags were assembled at the base of the World Trade Center and Pentagon in memory of the thousands of lives lost in the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001. Family Day marked the third anniversary of the September 11 attacks in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Spc. Jordan E. Werme, 65th PCH)



Sgt. Maj. J.D. Thomas, 169th Leadership Regiment, teaches his daughter Erika the fundamentals of Basic Rifle Marksmanship. (Photo by Pfc. Joseph Brooks, 65th PCH)



Staff Sgt. Matt Atwater (red shirt), 1109th AVCRAD and Senior Airman, plays football in the field at Camp Rell. (Photo by Pfc. Joseph Brooks, 65th PCH)

Day at Camp Rell ne Soldiers, Airmen

A Uh 60 Blackhawk helicopter was on display for all to board and to observe. Sitting in the Blackhawk for the very first time was Morgan Bronner. Bronner is a five-year-old attending Governor's Day for the first time. While sitting in one of the rear seats and speaking with her aunt beside her, Bronner seemed amazed at what she was seeing for the first time.

"I like it," said Bronner. Bronner stepped out of the aircraft with her aunt, Rachel Payne who is an Air Guard member from the 103rd Air Control Squadron (ACS) located in Orange, Conn. While Payne crouched down to hug her young niece, she explained why she attended Governor's Day.

"Just coming out to show support for the Guard," said Payne.

However, Bronner's older brother Joshua Burt described what he like the best.

"Pretty cool day today. I like the food the best," said Burt.

1st Sgt. Frank Rosado, Company A, 242nd Engineers, viewed the day's events along with his family. According his daughter Monica Moreno, she liked the skydiver the most, while her daughter Alyssa Moreno enjoyed the front of the helicopters with all the dials and switches to see. Monica Moreno also expressed how good it was just to be at Governor's Day.

According to Claudine Rosado, the wife of Frank Rosado, she liked the military equipment such as the trucks and aircraft for her and the children to see.

However, 1st Sgt. Rosado expressed his views on attending and viewing the events.

"This is bigger than last year," said Rosado. "This is really good." According to Rosado, the families want to feel pride for the work servicemembers provide. Overall, this is a great day.

Governor's Day was a day to recognize the 21 Connecticut units have, or are currently deployed throughout the world to fight the war against terrorism and to honor the servicemembers who gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country and state.



After watching a parachutist land with the American flag on the parade ground, Connor Huntington, 2, son of Staff Sgt. Courtney Huntington, command post apprentice, 103rd Fighter Wing, runs to his parents at the Governor's Day event Sept. 11. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jeanne Daigneau, 103rd Communications Flight)



were assembled at the base of the main flag pole at Camp Rell in s lost in the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks, y marked the third anniversary of the tragic events in New York and . Jordan E. Werme, 65th PCH)

David Habersang, 11, of Wethersfield, crosses a rope bridge while Pfc. Jason Titus, Alpha 242, ensures he does it safely during Governor's Day here Sept. 11.



Habersang's uncle, Master Sgt. Fenton Lewis, is a member of the 103rd Logistics Readiness Squadron. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jeanne Daigneau, 103rd Communications Flight)



, 1109th AVCRAD and Senior Airman Brandon Strout (blue shirt), eld at Camp Rell. (Photo by Pfc. Joseph Brooks, 65th PCH)



Kendrick Dow, son of Sgt. Mike Dow of the 103rd Fighter Wing looks through the scope of a weapon system. (Photo by Pfc. Joseph Brooks, 65th PCH)

Social Security FAQs

COL. GARY G. OTTENBREIT (J6 DIRECTORATE) AND
ROBERT RODRIGUEZ (PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE — SOCIAL
SECURITY ADMINISTRATION)

Question:

I often hear people talk about working until they qualify for early retirement at age 62, or working until they reach their full retirement age. But I was planning to work until I am 63. Can I apply for Social Security retirement benefits then?

Answer:

You can apply for Social Security benefits at anytime after age 62. If you wait until your full retirement age, you will get full benefits. Before that time, benefits would be reduced by about one-half of one percent for each month.

Question:

I am an administrative assistant for a county sheriff's office and will be eligible for a county pension at age 60. But I also have Social Security coverage, having paid into the system for the past 36 years. Will my Social Security retirement benefit be reduced because of my county pension?

Answer:

No. But the earliest that you can start

collecting Social Security retirement benefits is age 62. If you start your Social Security at 62, your benefit will be reduced for early retirement, but it will not be reduced because you get a county pension. However, you should check with your county pension office to find out if it will reduce your county pension once your Social Security benefits start.

Question:

My 87-year-old father is very ill and is not expected to live much longer. Will my 85-year-old mother have to apply for widow's benefits after his death? Or is that process done automatically?

Answer:

When your father passes away, your mother should notify Social Security. She can do so by calling 1-800-772-1213. If your mother is receiving spouse's benefits based on your father's work record, and if they were living at the same address, we should be able to switch her to widow's benefits automatically, and also pay the death benefit. Otherwise, she may have to complete a few forms before she could receive benefits.

Officers Club of Connecticut October

Tuesday, Oct. 5
Quiet Birdmen Dinner
6 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 11
Columbus Day
Club Closed

Monday, Oct. 18
House Committee Meeting
2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 19
Ladies O'Club Luncheon
12 noon

Thursday, Oct. 21
MOAA Luncheon
12 noon

Thursday, Oct. 21
Board of Governor's Meeting
5:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 29
OCTOBERFEST
Dinner and Dancing
Reservations call 249-3634

To book a party or event, call (860) 249-3624

AUSA to meet in D.C.

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) will hold its Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. from Oct. 25 to Oct. 27 at the new Washington Convention Center.

Preceding the opening, AUSA will host the Guard/Reserve Reception and Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 23, and on Sunday, Oct. 24, the Twentieth Army Ten-Miler Marathon.

During the meeting, AUSA will present its annual Chapter Awards.

This year, the Connecticut Chapter will receive 13 awards. They are: Chapter of Excellence, Presidents Club-Gold, Star Chapter, Superior Chapter, Merit Chapter, Greatest Percentage Increase in Retiree Membership, Best Chapter in Support of Reserve Components, Family Programs, Take the Hill, ILW (Institute of Land Warfare), Army Birthday Celebration, Lewis & Clark 200th Anniversary, Korean 50th Anniversary.

The Chapter also receives Honorable Mention for Best Chapter Overall and Greatest Corporate Membership; Commendable Performance for Best General Membership Meeting; and Runner-up for Most Active in Pursuit of Objectives.

Featured will be the exhibits of several hundred exhibitors from the United States and other countries. Highlights will be the President's Reception, Guard/Reserve Leadership Breakfast, Opening Ceremony, Dwight David Eisenhower Reception and Luncheon, Sustaining Member Reception and Luncheon and the George Catlett Marshall Reception and Dinner.

Several conferences, forums, and seminars will be held to include the Sergeant Major of the Army Conference, ROTC Luncheon and Sergeant Major of the Army Luncheon.


OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT
PRESENTS


OCTOBERFEST 2004

FRIDAY OCTOBER 29, 2004



Cocktails 6:00 PM (German Beers on draft)

Dinner 7:00 PM \$21.95 plus T & T

MENU

Appetizers: Harvest Bisque W/ Dark German Beer

Salads: German Potato Salad, Seasonal Greens

Entrees

Sauerbraten mit Rotkohl & KartoffelKlose
(Marinated Pot Roast w/ Ginger Snap Sauce)

Bratwurst mit Sauerkraut & Bratkartoffelin

Black Forest Ham

Baked Trout a la Holstein (Egg caper anchovy sauce)

Real German sauerkraut Red Cabbage

Potato Pancake

Desserts: German Chocolate Cake Apple Dumpling





SINGING AND DANCING TO THE MUSIC OF THE VAGABONDS
CLAUDIA & THOMAS BOTTAF
Reservations a must (860) 249-3634

Reserve component readiness highest ever

KATHLEEN T. RHEM
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

The state of readiness among today's reserve- component forces is higher than it has been in the nation's history, the official responsible for equipping and training those forces said in September.

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas Hall said he believes the high state of readiness among National Guard and Reserve troops is indicative of the goodness in the American people.

"I believe the thing that has been said about America and our goodness is (that it) is not at all in the science and not at all in the equipment, but in all the people," he said during an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

Hall said the Guard and Reserve are representative of the American people because they are truly citizen-soldiers. He added that he believes today's generation of young people has the potential to be the next "greatest generation."

"Sometimes we say the younger

generation is this or that. I think what the younger generation is today is patriotic," the secretary said. "And they are answering the call to colors just like their fathers, grandfathers (and) grandmothers did throughout the past."

Today's National Guard and Reserve troops are deployed to virtually every location and every mission that requires active-duty servicemembers. "So when you look in the Sinai, you look in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Korea, Europe, Iraq — almost anywhere in the world — you'll find guardsmen and reservists alongside their active-duty brethren," Hall said. "And in a totally integrated force, that's what you need."

Hall, a retired two-star Navy admiral, said he believes recruiting and retention will be among the greatest challenges facing the reserve components in the immediate future. With 400,000 guardsmen and reservists mobilized since Sept. 11, 2001, and 157,000 still activated today, he said the war on terrorism has led to the largest mobilization of reserve-component troops since the

Korean War.

Historically, Hall explained, there has been a dip in retention rates following major conflicts. And, he added, there is no reason to believe this one should be any different. "It's a natural thing," he said. "When you've been in a war or a combat situation and you come back from that, you're not always enthusiastic about immediately going back to that. You need a decompression period.

"So during that period of time, some people will say this is just not for me," he added.

So far, all the reserve components have met their retention goals for fiscal 2004, which ends Sept. 30. And all but one, the Army National Guard, have met their recruiting goals. Hall said the Army Guard will end the fiscal year 2 percent below its end-strength goal due to a slight recruiting shortfall, specifically a shortage in recruiting prior-service troops.

"Not as many people have come out of the active Army to join" the National Guard, he said.

The secretary noted recruiting is always challenging, and it's vital "to ensure that we make service in the Guard and Reserve just as attractive as it always has been."

Policymakers need to consider what Hall called the "three-legged stool" — the individual, the family members and the employer. If all three are not happy, chances are an individual won't re-enlist. "We have to make sure that those three legs are equal, (that) each one of them agree or the stool will tumble over," he said.

In a message directly to the reserve-component troops, Hall urged them to thank their employers, their families and their communities. He said he's touched by how supportive Americans are of their troops, which is evident in heartfelt displays of support in towns and cities across the country.

"Once again," he said, "it's a symbol (that) the strength and the goodness of this country is in our people and the way our people respond."

Veterans' Conference brings federal, state, local agencies, organizations together

From Page 1

Schwartz opened the meeting by reading a letter from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro which included the news that the Congresswoman would be introducing legislation that would require the Department of Defense to conduct face-to-face mental health screening for all returning Soldiers.

DeLauro applauded the efforts of all in attendance saying in her letter that "This is a long overdue event in Connecticut."

Congressman John Larson attended the conference to honor what he called "our nation's brightest and best." He called the conference an "extraordinary idea with an important focus."

He said that he, Senators Dodd and Lieberman and others have "made some

headway" on veterans' issues, citing concurrent receipt and spousal insurance, but saying that "it's not enough."

"This country owes our veterans," Larson said passionately. "We need to make sure every veteran gets what's justly and rightly theirs. We are profoundly in your debt."

Paraphrasing retired Gen. Tommy Franks' testimony before the Senate, Larson said, "It's time to forget the flag waving and put the money where it belongs in the budget.

"Hold us accountable for the votes and actions we take on your behalf," he told those gathered as he finished.

Schwartz said the issues of veterans are near and dear to her heart as she and her husband are both veterans. She said it took her three years to call the VA for benefits because "we didn't even consider ourselves

veterans."

She said this conference was a way to get the word out to veterans about the benefits they are entitled to.

"Our veterans and the young servicemen and women of today deserve everything we can give them," said Schwartz. "It's one thing to put the uniform on and accept the responsibility, it's another to actually live it.

"This consortium is a way for us to enhance our ability to serve our veterans, those who are currently serving and their families," she said. "Gov. Rell requested in August that this conference take place. There are 310,000 vets in Connecticut and we don't want the Soldiers now deployed worrying about who's paying the bills, is the car going going to be repossessed, is the baby going to have the formula it needs to survive?

"My hope is that this conference will serve as a model for other states and that we will develop creative solutions, challenge each other and end the turf wars," said Schwartz. "We, collectively, have the talent and the expertise to do that. This is a spirit of community we share here today."

Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno, adjutant general and commander of the Connecticut National Guard spoke about the changing role of the Guard today and explained that recruiting is the top challenge.

"A nation that honors its veterans is a nation that will continue to grow people who will want to serve its nation," said Cugno. "We remain a nation at war. I can't change that. You can't change that. We must serve that."

He told those gathered that since 9/11 the

Connecticut National Guard has deployed more than 2,000 Soldiers and Airmen into veterans' status.

He said it is his pledge that "Not one of the 5,000 Guardsmen or the 40,000 family members in Connecticut will never, ever see a day without Family Support, without Employer Support."

Congressman Rob Simmons brought good news with him to the conference. Just the Friday before the start of the conference, Congress had published its list of high priority bonding items.

The Rocky Hill Veterans' Home has two projects totalling \$30 million on the list of 257 projects...one sits at number 8, the other at number 12.

A retired colonel from the Army Reserve, Simmons said he learned early on that "It wasn't about me. It wasn't about the other guy. It was about the team. What we have here in Connecticut is a team."

Gov. Rell said this was a critical event to have, to put everyone in one room to share ideas and benefits.

"We have a new generation of Citizen-Soldiers," said Rell. "A new greatest generation. I was at a send-off ceremony just last weekend for another unit going overseas and I thought 'How young they look. What must they be feeling? Are they scared?'

"Our duty is to support them and their families while they are away. We must be there when they return, said Rell.

"They have to know, if you put your life on the line, we have a duty to treat you with respect and dignity upon your return."



The audience listens intently to speakers at the Veterans' conference at the Rocky Hill Veterans Home. (Photo by Pfc. Joseph Brooks, 65th PCH)

Military Matters



SAMANTHA L. QUIGLEY
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

A collaborative effort between the Department of Defense, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration could prove beneficial to certain Medicare-eligible uniformed services beneficiaries.

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 provides a chance for Medicare-eligible uniformed services beneficiaries to enroll in Medicare Part B without having to pay higher premiums due to late enrollment. Beneficiaries who enrolled in Part B in 2001 through 2004 will get a refund of surcharges they have paid in 2004.

By law, uniformed services beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part A, by reason of disability, end-stage renal disease or age, must also enroll in Medicare Part B in order to maintain their Tricare eligibility. Tricare, the military health benefit program, is secondary payer following Medicare for

Some retirees could get Medicare-surcharge refund

beneficiaries entitled to Medicare Parts A and B.

The Part B premium is \$66.60 per month for 2004. The Part B premium will increase to \$78.20 per month for 2005. Beneficiaries are encouraged to take advantage of this limited, one-time opportunity. If beneficiaries decline enrollment in Part B, they will have to pay a premium surcharge of 10 percent for each 12-month period in which they were eligible to enroll but didn't.

"This is an important announcement for uniformed services retirees who are entitled to Medicare Part A and don't have Part B," said Dr. Mark B. McClellan, CMS administrator, "also, (for) those who enrolled in Medicare Part B between Jan. 1, 2001, through 2004."

Nearly 35,000 retirees have been identified as eligible for the special enrollment in Medicare Part B. SSA is mailing notification to eligible beneficiaries to inform them that they have been enrolled in Medicare Part B

effective Sept. 1.

Those who are eligible for a refund will get a letter and a separate refund check. McClellan and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr.

William Winkenwerder Jr. estimated that a total of 60,000 beneficiaries would be affected by the changes. This legislation does not provide relief for all categories of beneficiaries.

"The new Medicare law protects thousands of military retirees from having to make higher payments to enroll in Medicare Part B," said McClellan. "This will allow eligible military retirees to use their Tricare benefits as a Medicare supplement."

"We welcome these new provisions and the assistance they provide for many of our military beneficiaries to retain their Tricare benefits as a supplement to Medicare coverage," Winkenwerder stated.

Defense Department announces Sexual Harassment Task Force

DoD PRESS RELEASE

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has announced the appointment of the Defense Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Violence at the Military Academies. The task force was mandated by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004 to examine matters relating to sexual harassment and violence at the U. S. Military Academy and the U. S. Naval Academy.

The 12-member task force is comprised of senior military and civilian experts from inside and outside the Department of Defense. The military members are: Navy Vice Adm. Gerald L. Hoewing, chief of naval personnel; Navy Rear Adm. Louis V. Iasiello, chief of Navy chaplains; Air Force Brig. Gen. Jarris J. Sanborn, chief counsel, Headquarters U.S. Transportation Command and staff judge advocate, Headquarters Air Mobility Command; Army Brig. Gen. Gina S. Farrisee, commanding general, U.S. Army Soldier Support Institute; Air Force Col. Sharon K. G. Dunbar, commander, 75th Air Base Wing; and Marine Corps Sergeant Major Alford L. McMichael, senior enlisted advisor, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

The civilian members are: Anita M. Carpenter, chief executive officer, Indiana Coalition Against Sexual Assault Inc.; Laura L. Miller, social scientist, RAND Corp; retired Army Maj. Gen. Michael J. Nardotti Jr., former Army judge advocate general; Delilah Rumburg, executive director, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape; Diane M. Stuart, director, Office on Violence Against Women, Department of Justice; and Sophia E. Mikula, counselor, St. Mary's High School, Annapolis, Md.

The task force is charged to assess and make recommendations concerning how the Departments of the Army and Navy may more effectively address matters relating to sexual harassment and violence at the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy, including any recommended changes to law. The task force follows the Fowler Commission that considered similar issues at the Air Force Academy last year. They are to report back to the secretary within one year.

Further information on the Task Force can be found at www.dtic.mil/dtfs

Education Essentials: Overcoming the money factor

Is the cost of getting your education delaying you from getting started on your degree?

Do you want to start earning your degree, but are afraid of going deep into debt?

No doubt you've heard there is a ton of college money available to you, but you just don't know where to start looking.

Well, consider yourself fortunate! You are about to get all the information you need to overcome those money barriers!

There are several programs to help you deal with the money factor. They fall into two main areas of financial assistance: Direct and Indirect.

Direct Financial Assistance

Direct assistance comes in the form of cash or vouchers paid to either you or the school. As a service member you have many sources of direct assistance. Among these are the Armed Forces Tuition Assistance Program (TA), VA Benefits Programs (MGIB), and Federal Student Aid (FSA).

Armed Forces Tuition Assistance

Armed Forces Tuition Assistance (TA) Programs are a benefit available to eligible members of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Ready Reserve. Congress has given each service the ability to pay up to \$4,500 a year for 100% of your Tuition Expenses.

Each Service has its own criteria for eligibility, obligated service requirements, application process' and restrictions. This

money is usually paid directly to the institution by the individual services.

· Additionally active duty members may elect to use the MGIB "top-up" in addition to their service provided TA to cover high cost courses.

· TA is not a loan; you should treat it like money you have earned just like your base pay!

Federal Student Aid

The Federal Government offers several Financial Student Aid Programs. These programs offer you extremely low interest loans, as well as grants (free money). Like the MGIB, Federal Student Aid is designed to assist you in meeting the cost of tuition, books, fees, and living expenses while you go to school. That means that once the school has taken its share, the remaining loan or grant balance goes to you.

Indirect Financial Assistance

As a service member or veteran, you have a golden opportunity to avoid paying for college credit by applying your military experience and training, and by taking credit-by-exam tests. As you know, colleges charge tuition based on the number of credits a course is worth, so every time you apply your Military Experience or Credit-by-Exam it costs you nothing! Can you say free?

Military Experience and Training Credits:

As a member or veteran of the armed forces you can use the American Council on

Education's (ACE) recommendation to claim Academic Credit for your Military experience and training. Thousands of accredited schools throughout the country accept ACE recommendations for academic credit.

Credit-by-Exam

This gives you the opportunity to earn college-level credits through a program of exams. Over 2,900 colleges grant credit for CLEP (College Level Examination Program), DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests), and ECE (Excelsior College Exam) tests.

Considering an average college course can cost you over \$100 per credit, Credit-by-Exam can save you quite a bit. Civilian students pay more than \$40 per exam for these tests, but DANTES (Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support) gives you these Credit-by-Exam tests for free. That's a great way to avoid paying for college!

By applying your ACE credits and CLEP tests you may in fact already have enough credits to have your Associate in Science degree without ever stepping into a college classroom or lecture hall.

There are many other sources of college money including Military Scholarships, Service Specific Grants, ROTC, and the Army/Navy College Funds, but the sources covered here should be enough to get you started on the path to higher education, and greater opportunity!

Enlisted Update

Mentoring prepares Soldiers to be tomorrow's leaders

MASTER SGT. CHRISTINE E. SEITZINGER

In Greek mythology, Mentor was a loyal friend and advisor to Odysseus, king of Ithaca. Mentor helped to raise Odysseus' son Telemachus while Odysseus was away fighting the Trojan War. Mentor became Telemachus' teacher, coach, counselor and protector, building a relationship based on affection and trust.

Mentoring today is synonymous with the process by which we guard and guide others. Mentors seemingly adopt those placed in their care.

Although mentorship is not new to the Army, it is most often associated with officers. But, mentors can be – and are – squad leaders, section or platoon sergeants, first sergeants and sergeants major, as well as officers and civilians.

Mentoring is an especially critical skill for NCOs because they are charged to train and develop junior leaders. Ideally every Soldier is both a practicing mentor and a protégé recipient of mentorship.

This ideal circle of mentoring only occurs when a unit has created an atmosphere where the art of leadership is recognized as a learning and growing process and where mistakes are tolerated as part of that process.

There is the adage that “some people live and learn; and some just go on living.” Those who do live and learn must be given a chance to succeed or fail. They must be challenged and pushed to take risks – to think for themselves.

Today's recruits are the best and brightest ever. NCOs have the responsibility for developing these Soldiers to the best of their abilities. We make that happen by sharing our knowledge with the leaders of tomorrow. And the most effective way to share that knowledge is through mentoring.

Becoming a mentor should not be a hasty endeavor. It is not a part-time job. It is an intense relationship between teacher and student. The process requires time and caring.

Effective mentors are totally committed to spending the necessary time and attention it takes to share values, attitudes and beliefs. This includes helping a Soldier make career decisions and providing support and encouragement that allow leaders to grow.

Information on training and caring for Soldiers can be found in FM 22-100, *Military Leadership Counseling*; and FM 22-102, *Soldier Team Development*.

The accompanying mentor's checklist also provides some basic guidance. You might have other suggestions or priorities that can be added to this checklist. The important thing is that you offer your Soldiers a program for growth.

Mentoring is not just a fancy buzzword. It is a proven approach and valuable tool

for NCO leaders.

Mentor's checklist

Set an example for the Soldier to follow in your daily displays of courage, candor, competence and commitment.

Get to know your Soldier inside and out, and identify his or her strengths and weaknesses. Then create a training program that is tailored for your Soldier.

Review the Soldier's military records, teach the Soldier about these forms and files; and assist with updating and correcting records.

Develop a job description that includes the Soldier's input.

Within the framework of the unit's and your standards, work with the Soldier on establishing challenging and attainable goals.

Discuss with the Soldier the importance of understanding and following the professional Army ethics of loyalty to nation, the Army and the unit, duty, selfless service and integrity.

Continually evaluate the Soldier's performance and provide timely feedback.

Teach the Soldier how to objectively evaluate his or her performance and to use each success or failure to learn and grow.

Formally counsel each quarter – at a minimum.

Prepare the Soldier's NCOER fairly and accurately.

Get the Soldier enrolled in MOS and Soldier-oriented correspondence courses.

Send the Soldier to the Army Education Center to improve communication skills with classes like the Army Writing Program.

Encourage the Soldier to go to college on a part-time basis.

Prepare for and send the Soldier to appropriate military schools.

Give the Soldier additional responsibilities and appropriately reward him or her.

Help the Soldier learn how to polish communication skills through practical exercises, role playing and junior leadership training.

Create opportunities and encourage the Solider to teach classes to other Soldiers.

Train the Soldiers to do your job; then let the Soldier do it.

Teach the Soldier how to use Army regulations, field mannuals and pamphlets so he or she becomes familiar with them and knows where to get information and answers.

Prepare the Soldier for promotion; hold mock promotion boards and provide constructive criticism.

Editor's note: Master Sgt. Christine Seitzinger was the Chief Wardmaster of the Department of Nursing, Moncrief Army Community Hospital, Fort Jackson, S.C. when she wrote this article. This article originally appeared in the Spring 1992 issue of the NCO Journal.

Guard Voices

Joint Chiefs Chairman's 2004 Voting Message

In this election year, you – our men and women in uniform – are stationed around the globe serving our Nation and defending democracy. We have both the responsibility and the privilege to participate in our democracy by exercising our fundamental right to vote.

I encourage every eligible man and woman in uniform, as well as all family members of voting age, to join in the democratic process and cast your ballots. You will have the opportunity to vote, either in person or through absentee ballots, in primary, special run-off and general elections – no matter where you are stationed or what operation you are participating in.

Recent elections have demonstrated the importance of every absentee ballot. Your vote does count!

The 2004 elections will determine our choice for president and vice president,

34 senators, the entire House of Representatives, and 13 governors, as well as thousands of local officials. I urge each of you to participate, starting with the primaries already underway and continuing through the general election on November 2nd.

Most of you will be using the absentee voting process, which has never been easier than it is today. For those of us in the Armed Forces and our family members, starting the process is as easy as filling out and mailing the Federal Post Card Application. The FPCA is available from your Unit Voting Assistance Officer, who can also assist you with your state procedures.

As members of the Armed Forces, we each have a responsibility to take part in determining our Nation's leadership.

IT'S YOUR FUTURE, VOTE FOR IT!

GEN. RICHARD B. MYERS, USAF
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Letter from Iraq

From family and friends I am often asked what it is like to be in Iraq. What it is like to serve in the Army. What it feels like to be in a war. The truth is that this is an experience like no other. I am a Soldier and I have a job to do. But I can tell you that the War on Terror is a war that is not like any other.

Being in Iraq is both frightening and enlightening. The fear that a Soldier feels in Iraq isn't so much from the thought of being attacked. The fear comes from the unknown. You never know why one convoy can go across country without a scratch while others are hit by an IED. Or how in a base of 20,000 people you could be the only one hurt by a mortar. These are the thoughts that way heaviest on our minds other than home.

But Iraq is also very enlightening. The freedoms that we possess and our standards of living appear strikingly drastic to that of the Iraqi people. What we take for granted in the forms of our economy, infrastructure, and governmental programs are what they one day hope to achieve.

Serving as a noncommissioned officer (NCO) is a privilege. I hope that I can uphold the standards of all the great teachers that have taught me through the years how to be a leader. But the Army is a lot like a

normal job. We do what needs to be done and try to relax at the end of the day. The difference is we are 5900 miles away from our families and in constant danger while we are doing so. For me, and the majority of Soldiers, being in the Army is a source of pride.

The War on Terror is unlike any other war that the United States has fought in. Gone are the days of conventional battlefields. Terrorists have ushered in a new era of warfare. Rules of engagement are more complicated now then ever before. The enemy is no longer clearly identifiable. That is the war in which I fight. The advantage we have in this war as opposed to Vietnam is the American people have separated the Soldiers from the politics. People are more aware that Soldiers defend our country out of patriotism and not necessarily because we believe in the political course of action.

I hope that I have helped answer some of the questions that I have been receiving. And maybe I have shared a little insight into what the average Soldier is thinking and feeling. Thank you for your support.

PAUL TARBOX
SGT, USA, CTARN
Iraq

Send Letters to the Editor to:

Editor, Connecticut Guardian, National Guard Armory, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795

or by email to: ctguardian@ct.ngb.army.mil

All letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Letters may be edited for grammer, spelling and space, but not for content.

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children: Red Ribbon Celebration 2004

1ST LT. CHRISTOPHER D. MORGAN
COUNTERDRUG STAFF WRITER

In this time of war against our nation's enemies, it does not hurt to remember another "front line" battle this nation has been fighting for decades.

Like Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, the war on drugs has had many stunning victories against a persistent, crafty and often ruthless enemy.

In these trying times of deployments and re-deployments, the quiet successes of the war on drugs provide many fine examples of the courage, strength, commitment and perseverance that we all must rely on.

Evolving and uplifting, the Red Ribbon Celebration is representative of the enormous difference one person can make in the war on drugs.

Angered by the 1985 assassination of a Drug Enforcement Agent by drug traffickers in Mexico, parents across the country began wearing Red Ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to create a drug-free

future for our nation's youth.

In 1988, the National Family Partnership sponsored the first National Red Ribbon Celebration.

It started with a brave man named Enrique "Kiki" Camarena who grew up in a dirt-floored house with hopes and dreams of making a difference. Camarena worked his way through college, served in the Marines and became a police officer.

When he decided to join the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, his mother tried to talk him out of it.

The DEA sent Camarena to work undercover in Mexico investigating a major drug cartel believed to include officers in the Mexican army, police and government.

On Feb. 7, 1985, the 37-year-old Camarena left his office to meet his wife for lunch. Five



men appeared at the agent's side and shoved him in a car. One month later, Camarena's body was found in a shallow grave. He had been tortured to death.

In honor of Camarena's memory and his battle against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors began to wear red badges of satin.

Parents, sick of the destruction of alcohol and other drugs, had begun forming coalitions.

Some of these new coalitions took Camarena as their model and embraced his belief that one person can make a

Sixteen years later, the campaign has reached millions of U.S. children in its effort to present a unified and visible commitment toward a drug-free America.

The Connecticut National Guard in partnership with The Capital Area Substance Abuse Council (CASAC) and The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has sponsored this annual event for the last seven years. The Connecticut National Guard's Aviation Role Models For Youth Program (A.R.M.Y.) will be conducted throughout the week during Red Ribbon Celebration, which is October 23 - 31 2004.

If you have any questions about other Drug Free events or Educational & Leadership Programs please call the Connecticut National Guard Drug demand Reduction Office at 860-493-2724.

Chaplain's

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Getting rid of the elephants

CHAPLAIN
DAVID NUTT

What do you do when there's an

elephant in the room?

Ok not a real elephant but what do you do if you have a problem with a peer?

A friend?

A squad member?

Too often we use the strategy of avoidance. Avoid the problem and pretend that every thing is just fine.

Only problem is the problem just lays there and instead of going away it just keeps getting bigger and bigger.

Soon the problem is elephant size in proportions and neither one of you can move or get anything done because there's this big issue between you.

The best way to deal with a problem is to address it while it is small. Scripture gives us a way to deal with one-on-one problems before they reach elephantine proportions.

Step 1 Let the other person know you have a problem.

Often when you have a problem with a person he or she might not even realize that something done or said to injure you.

Give the person a chance to make it right between you.

In discussion you might even find out you are in the wrong and owe an apology. Grace should always be given the broadest ground to operate.

Step 2 Bring in a third party to arbitrate.

If you still can't resolve the problem between you then bring in a third party into the process to provide perspective.

The best is person to bring in is one both of you trust and has no stake in the outcome.

Make sure before you go to the other person with the third party they have agreed to meet with you and this person.

If you just show up with some one else to talk it's not a discussion, it's an ambush.

Step 3 If all else fails "agree to disagree" and set clear boundaries.

If you cannot resolve an issue between you then you should talk about what your boundaries will be.

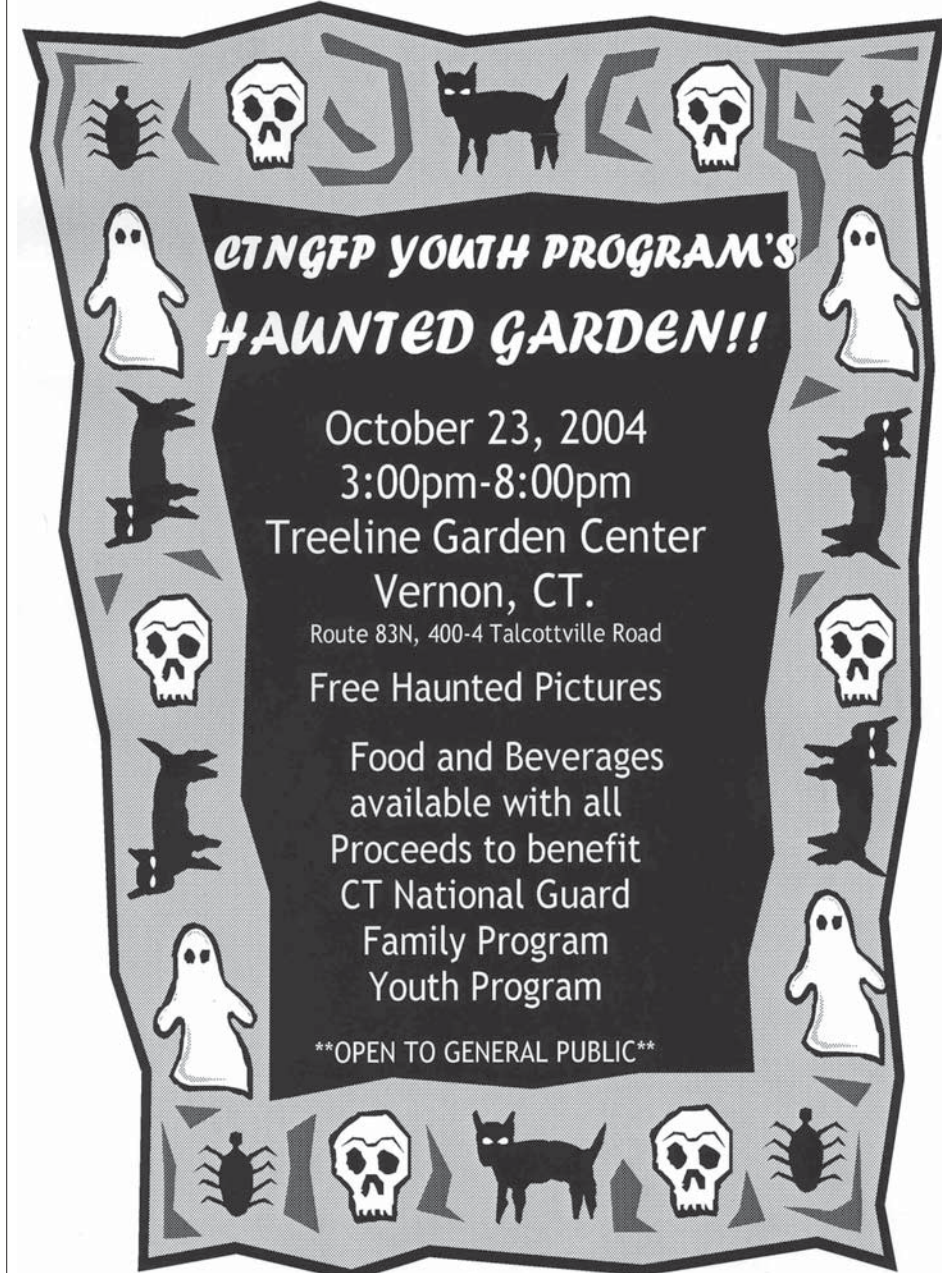
If it is a personality conflict then limiting contact and keeping a professional attitude and demeanor is the *least* both of you are required to do.

If it is just one issue that cannot be resolved then this is where you can agree to disagree and have a clear set of expectations between you that this subject is one you both should avoid.

It's not ignoring a problem at this point: it is a mutual understanding that this is an issue where both of do not see eye to eye.

The most important thing to remember is not matter what path you choose you must keep communications open.

The "silent treatment" and avoiding the issue is just "feeding the elephant."



103^d ACS names Airman of the Year

LT. COL. PAMELA K. TITUS
JFHQ-PA

The 103rd Air Control Squadron, Orange, Connecticut named Senior Airman Victoria E. Lashley as the Airman of the Year for 2004.

Joining the unit in 1999, Lashley attended Basic Military Training and was a distinguished graduate of the Aerospace Control and Warning Systems Technical School at Keesler Air Force Base, MS.

Lashley has been deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH in 2001, activated for Operation NOBLE EAGLE from October 2001 to August 2002, and deployed for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM to Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan in March 2003.

Her responsibilities for Operation NOBLE EAGLE included being selected for a special deployment in direct support of the President of the United States and surveillance of the skies over New York City.

She provided continuity for the surveillance mission and led the in-theater start-up for crew rotations for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. She voluntarily



extended two consecutive four-month tours. Lashley works for the Maximus Children's Health Project where she promotes the Health for Uninsured and Underinsured Kids in Youth (HUSKY) program to provide assistance and information to Connecticut families.

103^d ACS names NCO of the Year

LT. COL. PAMELA K. TITUS
JFHQ-PA

The 103rd Air Control Squadron, Orange, Connecticut named Staff Sergeant Aaron M. Gow as the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for 2004.

Joining the Guard in 1998, Gow is now serving as the non-commissioned officer in charge of the communications operations section.

Gow was voluntarily activated for Operation NOBLE EAGLE from January 2002 to August 2002 as the local area network administrator for the 103rd.

He was also deployed twice in direct support of the President of the United States.

He has maintained all LAN workstation computers, servers and the network infrastructure during the Orange Air National Guard Station's Military Construction Project.

Gow is a full-time student at the University of Connecticut and an active member of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corp serving as the flight adjutant for drill and ceremony for the honor guard.



He is also employed full-time as a consulting manager for a national restaurant chain.

Joint experiment provides big benefits for the 103^d ACS

LT. COL. PAMELA K. TITUS
JFHQ-PA

The 103rd Air Control Squadron participated in a Joint Expeditionary Forces Experiment ("JEFX '04") from March 2004 to August 2004, deploying approximately 30 members to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada.

There were three major components of the Battle Control Center (BCC) initiative where the ACS team worked.

The first was to remote the radar picture, second was to remote the High Frequency (HF) radios, and third was for the JM module to provide a data link between AWACs aircraft and the BCC during the experiment.

"The Air Force was pleased with the results of the remote radio test," said Master Sergeant Dan L. Gregoire, ground radar systems supervisor.

In a civil aviation situation a couple of second delay isn't important. In a military application, it can have significant impact, explained Gregoire.

The experiment validated the remote operations. "Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) can give a better radar presentation in a mountainous region," said Chief Master Sergeant Albert A. Hunt, maintenance superintendent.

"The AN/TPS-75 radar set was used on top of the mountain during the experiment

to augment and supplement the AWACS capability," he said. "When the AWACS weren't available, the ACS seamlessly provided radar coverage."

"We did the remote radar with radios in Afghanistan," said Gregoire. "But the experiment validated the transmission through the Internet as well."

The experiment was conducted by the 133rd Test and Evaluation Squadron as the lead for the BCC.

"Formally an Air Control Squadron, the sole purpose of the 133rd is to test new pieces of equipment and concepts coming into the ACS environment," Hunt said.

"Our participation gave us chance to see and utilize some of the equipment before it is fielded."

Numerous benefits have been derived from participation in the experiment. One of the more interesting aspects of the experiment is the handling of operational failures.

"Because we aren't a test squadron, we repair equipment during operational failures as soon as possible," said Hunt.

"Part of the test was not restoring failed equipment immediately, but seeing the impacts and ripple effects of operating without the operational repairs," said Gregoire. "This was foreign to us."

Another benefit was, "we have been limited in our ability to operate our radar because of the construction at ACS and it has allowed us

to get some valuable training," said Hunt.

"We have some young radar troops coming out of school and they have had the opportunity to learn the business and in a joint world in an environment of remote radar that we don't do here," said Gregoire.

"The initiative we tested puts our radar forward deployed and enables us to send the data over transmission lines, satellites, wide-band or DSN," said Gregoire. Communications were through an encrypted link.

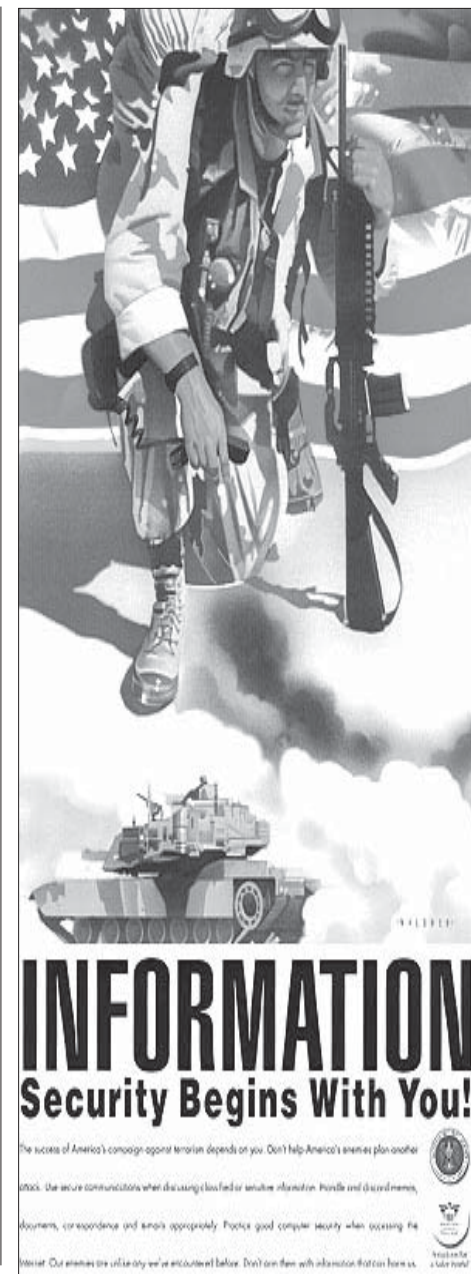
Systems used on an Operation ENDURING FREEDOM deployment were included in the experiment where Senior Airman Raymond M. Dastous, ground radio technician, was able to test new operational software after originally using the equipment in the field.

"It was a significant change from what had been used in Afghanistan," said Dastous.

"The software hasn't been fielded yet." Dastous joined the full-time technician team at the 103rd ACS on Sept 11, 2001.

"The ultimate goal is to put less people into harms-way, our people and the people fighting the battle," Gregoire said.

This experiment has provided learning that will "significantly reduce the footprint at forward sites," said Hunt.



Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: *Improper relationships explained*

CAPT. TIMOTHY TOMCHO
JAG OFFICE

Through interaction as Soldiers, we engage in relationships. Most of our relationships are professional, in that they are solely based upon our duties. However, in some cases, Soldiers interact with one another outside the sphere of their professional duties. Such relationships are regulated and may be "improper."

Improper relationships are those relationships that involve or give the appearance of partiality, preferential treatment, or the improper use of rank or position for personal gain. Such relationships are prejudicial to good order, discipline and morale. Improper relationships, most of which involve Soldiers of different ranks, are prohibited. Relationships between Soldiers of different rank are prohibited if they:

- (1) Compromise, or appear to compromise, the integrity of supervisory authority or the chain of command.
- (2) Cause actual or perceived partiality or unfairness.
- (3) Involve, or appear to involve, the improper use of rank or position for personal gain.
- (4) Are, or are perceived to be, exploitative or coercive in nature.
- (5) Create an actual or clearly predictable

adverse impact on discipline, authority, morale, or the ability of the command to accomplish its mission.

Other types of personal relationships between officers and enlisted personnel are prohibited.

(1) Business relationships between officers and enlisted personnel. This prohibition does not apply to landlord/tenant relationships or to one-time transactions such as the sale of an automobile or house, but does apply to borrowing or lending money, commercial solicitation, and any other type of on-going financial or business relationship. In the case of Army National Guard or United States Army Reserve personnel, this prohibition does not apply to relationships that exist due to their civilian occupation or employment.

(2) Dating, shared living accommodations other than those directed by operational requirements, and intimate or sexual relationships between officers and enlisted personnel. This prohibition does not apply to

Personal relationships outside of marriage between members of the National Guard or Army Reserve, when the relationship primarily exists due to civilian acquaintanceships, unless the individuals are on active duty (other than annual training) or Full-time National Guard duty

(other than annual training).

(3) Gambling between officers and enlisted personnel. This prohibition applies to all types of gambling and to all Soldiers, regardless of service component.

(4) Trainee and Soldier relationships. Any relationship between permanent party personnel and IET trainees not required by the training mission is prohibited. This prohibition applies to permanent party personnel without regard to the installation of assignment of the permanent party member or the trainee.

(5) Recruiter and recruit relationships. Any relationship between permanent party personnel assigned or attached to the Recruiting Command and potential prospects, applicants, not required by the recruiting mission is prohibited.

These prohibitions are not intended to preclude normal team building associations which occur in the context of activities such as community organizations, religious activities, family gatherings, unit-based social functions, or athletic teams or events. Soldiers and leaders share responsibility, however, for ensuring that these relationships do not interfere with good order and discipline. All military personnel share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships. However, in any relationship between Soldiers of different

grade or rank the senior member is generally in the best position to terminate or limit the extent of the relationship. Nevertheless, all members may be held accountable for relationships that violate this policy.

Commanders should seek to prevent inappropriate or unprofessional relationships through proper training and leadership by example. Should inappropriate relationships occur, commanders have available a wide range of responses. These responses may include counseling, reprimand, order to cease, reassignment, or adverse action. Potential adverse action may include official reprimand, adverse evaluation report(s), nonjudicial punishment, separation, bar to reenlistment, promotion denial, demotion; and courts martial. Commanders must carefully consider all of the facts and circumstances in reaching a disposition that is warranted, appropriate, and fair. Violations of these rules may be punished as a violation of a lawful general regulation.

This article is not intended as and does not constitute legal advice. Specific legal issues are unique to each person and factual situation. Persons with legal issues are encourage to personally consult with an attorney.



RONALD E. LEE, 1ST SGT. (RET.) USAR
CT-ESGR PUBLIC AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN

It seems like every time you turn on the radio or television or open a newspaper that there is more and more discussion concerning the number of National Guard and Reserve service members who are being deployed overseas in support of Operations Enduring or Iraqi Freedom.

Especially with the approaching National elections, the debates and campaign speeches relating to the "War on Terrorism" are in the forefront with talk of whether or not the war is valid and whether or not we should have more or fewer troops involved.

It is estimated that OIF-3 will consist of approximately 60 percent Guard and Reservists on the ground.

What is not publicized too frequently is the impact that the activation and deployment of Guard and Reserves is having here at home and the strain that this service is putting on some employers.

A recent article pointed out that officials in some states are worried they could be caught short-handed if an emergency flares up at home.

More Guard and Reserve members are

deployed now than have been since the Korean War, about a quarter of the 460,000 nationwide.

Their more frequent and longer overseas deployments absolutely affect states' emergency response.

The effect is critical, not just because so many National Guard and Reserve members are gone, but because so many of them work in public safety and emergency response.

It's the tenure and experience that's missing, and you can't simply fill the hole with someone less experienced.

It is impossible to quickly recruit, train and prepare a new-hire to fill the vacancy left by a police officer, fire fighter or emergency medical technician.

These civilian occupations take months to prepare a new person to do the job. During the absence of the "citizen soldier", states and towns must fill their vacancies, usually with another employee working on overtime.

This puts a tremendous drain on budgets not to mention the impact on the replacement's personal and family life for having to work so many hours.

Another monetary factor for employers is

the support they give to their activated employees in the way of pay differential and other benefits to the employee or their family.

Governors rely on the National Guard to serve as a last line of defense during natural disasters and civil emergencies.

National Guard leaders have assured states that remaining Guard units can handle their emergency needs.

A recently released General Accounting Office report, however, warns that overseas deployments could strain the National Guard's stateside mission. "Equipment and personnel may not be available to the states when they are needed because they have been deployed overseas," the GAO report concludes.

"Moreover, the Guard may have difficulty ensuring that each state has access to units with key specialized capabilities - such as engineering or medical assets - needed at home.

With all of this said, most members of the National Guard and Reserves are proud to serve and are willing to make sacrifices in order to protect our Country.

We salute these brave men and women as well as the civilian employers who support

them. As has been mentioned on several occasions, "It is better that we fight over there than in our own streets here at home!"

Let's hope that this never comes to be and that all of our service members return safe, healthy and victorious.

The Connecticut Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve stands ready to assist both service members and employers with any issues or concerns they may have, free of charge.

Please contact us at www.esgr.com or call 1-800-336-4590 and ask for the Connecticut Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Visit the
**Connecticut
Guardian**
on-line at
www.ct.ngb.army.mil

Inside OCS

The Warrior Ethos at Officer Candidate School

OC CLAUDE HIBBERT
OCS CLASS 50

Officer Candidates are training to meet threats posed by unstable governments, warring factions and terrorist organizations. In order to make our force more efficient and effective the U.S. Army leadership developed the Army Campaign Plan (ACP), which outlines transformation of the force structure. The ACP provides direction for detailed planning, preparation and execution of the full range of tasks necessary while maintaining the soldier as the core of all combat systems and formations.

U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Peter J. Schoomaker addressed that focus on the Soldier by calling for a service-wide return to the "warrior ethos." In short, the warrior ethos is the desire to accomplish that mission despite all adversity. It is also a reminder that we must maintain our combat preparedness despite our individual Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). The warrior ethos is also one of the fundamental concepts behind the

curriculum at Officer Candidate School (OCS).

The structure of OCS is based on the small squad infantry tactics, which are employed by Soldiers currently engaged in Iraqi and Afghanistan. The TAC Officers have articulated the importance of training in a post 9-11 Army. Class 50 entered OCS aware that the probability of being deployed to Southeast Asia within the next two years was high. However, the very real threat posed by terrorist groups compels us to study, learn, understand and practice our skills because the nation, our troops and our families depend on it.

Candidates opting for the Military Police or Infantry branch may find themselves protecting power plants, reactors, seaports and other transportation hubs. Engagement will be asymmetric and sudden. In response, junior officers will need to be imaginative and think ahead. We must find new ways to seek and destroy an enemy that moves in small numbers. Perhaps future command and control technologies will allow Soldiers greater capabilities to counter guerilla attacks

on soft targets. Second lieutenants must also be prepared mentally and physically to their lead troops and engage the enemy at close quarters in city streets or in mountain passes.

The TAC officers emphasize the importance of situational awareness, conducting reconnaissance and developing redundancy. When a Candidate fails to notice the approach of a car moving towards the formation, injuries may occur. This demonstrates a lack of situational awareness that compromises the safety of the unit and the success of the mission. In the near future, that van might contain explosives. The strange suitcase hidden within the barracks might represent an improvised explosive device or dirty bomb left by the enemy.

The warrior ethos compels us to train and prepare for battle. As platoon leaders, we will be responsible for nurturing the warrior ethos within our units. The preparation required for the successful execution of a road march is essential to the managing a

convoy moving through an Iraqi town. Candidates must ensure that the entire student leadership is aware of the route. Important information including designated rest areas and disposition of water must be detailed in the operation plans. Candidates should also develop redundant communication systems as contingency plans for the unexpected. One day that convoy may be ambushed and the primary radios rendered inoperable. Transportation Officers will need to fall back on their basic Soldier skills to repel the attack, secure their wounded and complete the mission.

At OCS, we push ourselves through the pain and the weariness, keeping in mind the Soldiers that will not get to go home at the end of the weekend. The training is relevant and deadly important. The warrior ethos is a critical component of this process, because it reminds us that we are all Soldiers in the world's elite army. It is with a sense of pride that we wear the uniform, because we represent our commanders, troops and our communities.

Why Diversity?



**The Connecticut National Guard and
United States Postal Service**

Cordially Invite You To The 2004 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

**"Hispanic Americans: Making a Difference
in Our Communities and Nation"**

**Welte Auditorium, Central Connecticut State University
Friday, October 15th, 10:00am-12:00 noon**

Keynote Speaker
**Evelyn C. Mantilla, State Representative
Serving Hartford's 4th Assembly District**

Special Musical Presentation
**Val Ramos Flamenco Guitarist
Sandra Hernandez Flamenco Dancer**

Visual Display
**United States Postal Service's
Hispanic Heritage Stamp Series**

A reception will follow the celebration.

RSVP: SPC Ivette Rosario at (860) 878-6721 by October 12th, 2004

This event is open to the public.

Health & Fitness



Medical Notes



Minerals

COL. FRANK DiNUCCI
SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH MANAGER

Vitamins are very important to our body functions, but vitamins can not act without minerals. All body tissues and fluids contain minerals. Minerals are found in bone, teeth, muscle and nerve cells. Minerals are important to the body’s mental and physical health. Minerals help in maintaining normal muscle response, the transmission of nerve impulses, hormone production, and digestion. The body can not manufacture

minerals so we need to ingest minerals in our food or in supplements.

The most common minerals are calcium, magnesium, iron, iodine, zinc, manganese, chromium, potassium, and selenium. Let’s review what each mineral does in the body.


All the information listed above can be found on the web sites given in last month’s article on vitamins. As stated in the last article, a balanced diet and proper monitoring of one’s intake of vitamin pills can lead to a more healthy life.

Mineral	Food Sources	Functions	Deficiency	Toxicity
Calcium	Dark green leafy vegetables, broccoli, shrimp, fortified orange juice, legumes, tofu, and milk products.	Builds bone and teeth, regulates heart rhythm assist in normal blood clotting and helps to maintain nerve and muscle functions.	Osteoporosis (decrease in bone mass), back and leg cramps, and tooth decay.	Extra calcium usually excreted.
Chromium	Whole grain bread, meat, vegetable oil	Release energy from glucose, associated with hormone insulin.	Decrease ability to process glucose	Unknown.
Chloride	Salt, any foods that are process, certain flavor enhancer such as MSG.	Part of acid in stomach, fluid balance, acid-base balance.	Loss of appetite, children’s growth rate, muscle cramps.	Vomiting.
Copper	Shellfish, legumes, organ meats, and nuts.	Production of hemoglobin (hemoglobin is essential in transport of oxygen in the blood), production of red blood cells, and in several enzymes functions.	Unknown.	Diarrhea, vomiting.
Fluoride	Toothpaste, fluorinated water, and seafood	Formation of bones and prevents tooth decay.	Tooth decay.	Discolored teeth, nausea, vomiting.
Iodine	Seafood, iodized salt.	Normal function of thyroid gland regulates the body’s energy production, burns excess fat.	Enlarge thyroid gland, hair loss, dry skin, and weight gain.	Enlarge thyroid gland.

Mineral	Food Sources	Functions	Deficiency	Toxicity
Iron	Egg yolk, enriched cereals, and breads, organ meats, red meat, green leafy vegetables and dried fruits	Essential in making hemoglobin (hemoglobin is essential in transport of oxygen in the blood).	Pale skin, anemia, itchy skin, fatigue, concave nails, and can not regulate body temperature.	Infections
Magnesium	Nuts, dark green leafy vegetables, nuts, and whole grains.	Help maintain a normal heart rhythm, and help vitamin C and calcium to work.	Low calcium, heart spasm, confusion, and decrease growth in children.	Diarrhea.
Manganese	Whole grains, vegetables, nuts, and fruits.	Help in the blood braking down of amino acids and energy production. Helps acid production in digestion. Assists in break down of fats. Helps in nerve and brain nourishment.	Paralysis, convulsions, dizziness, loss of hearing, and digestive disorders.	Nerve system disorder.
Phosphorus	Eggs, milk products, nuts, legumes, poultry, and meat.	Oxidation of carbohydrates, transportation of fats, help maintain acid base balance, and maintain good bone and teeth integrity.	Tooth decay and weak bone structure.	Calcium deficiency.
Potassium	Bananas, meat, milk products, legumes, and fruit.	Normalizes heart rhythms, preserves the acid base balance of body fluids, assists in reducing high blood pressure, and promotes health skin.	Slow reflexes, respiratory failure and cardiac arrest.	Muscle weakness, abnormal heart beat, and vomiting.
Selenium	Meat, seafood, and whole grain foods.	Protects cell membrane and prevents free radical generation which can decrease the risk of cancer and heart disease. Preserves tissue elasticity. Help in the prevention of dandruff.	Premature aging, heart disease, and dandruff.	Nervous system disorders and hair loss.
Sodium	Salt and processed foods.	Acid base balance, fluid balance, and nerve conduction.	Loss of appetite and muscle cramps.	High blood pressure.
Zinc	Poultry, fish, nuts, meat, whole grain foods, and legumes.	Helps in the production of insulin and sperm.	Diarrhea, delay in puberty, dry skin, and increase in wound healing.	Increase LDL cholesterol, muscle pain and vomiting.

The CT National Guard Family Program Presents A

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR



NOVEMBER 20TH, 2004
10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
HARTFORD ARMORY
Open to all CT National Guard Members and Their Families

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE
CALL 800-858-2677

~BLOOD DRIVE~

~STRESS SCREENING & STRESS REDUCTION TIPS~

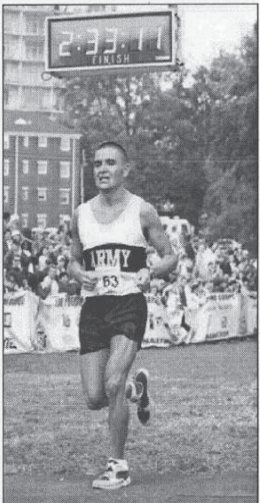
~BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING~

~DIABETES SCREENING~

~FIRST AID TIPS~

~TIPS ON GOOD EXERCISE HABITS~

~AND MUCH MORE!~



Handyperson Hotline for families and volunteers

Calling all soldiers and airmen, retirees or spouses.

Volunteer to donate some of your time and expertise to the CTNG Family Program’s Handyperson Center. If you are a tradesman or an all around handyperson or a laborer, the Handyperson Center is looking for you!

E-mail your name, phone number skill, status (active, retired, spouse) and hometown to Sgt. Maj. Toby Cormier at toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil or call (860)209-0770.

The Handyperson Hotline is designed to reduce the stressors on the families of deployed soldiers and airmen by having everyday household problems diagnosed and repaired or referred to competent businesses at no cost for labor.

The program is also designed to get seasonal chores such as window air conditioners installed/removed, pools opened/closed, leaves removed, items brought to the dump and so on.

All of this can be performed by fellow Guardsmen, retirees or spouses of Guardsmen who are willing to donate their time and expertise to this program.

Here’s how the program works:

A deployed family member calls the Handyperson Hotline with a clogged drain.

The Hotline manager contacts a plumber from the Handyperson Database who will contact the family member and attempt to walk the person through correcting the problem (if possible.)

If not corrected, the Hotline will dispatch a qualified person (fellow Guardsman) to the house to correct the problem.

It is designed to give the deployed family somewhere to turn to keep the home operating smoothly without having to pay to get things done around the house that were normally done by the deployed soldier or airman.

To volunteer or for more information, call (860) 209-0770 today.

Adjutant General presents awards for Selective Service



Ms Robin Tracey, accepting for Representative Stone, Ms Barbara Nicholson, accepting for Senator Nickerson, Brig. Gen. (ret.) Nathan Agostinelli, Selective Service State Director, Senator Freedman, Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, The Honorable Linda Schartz, Ms Phyllis Silverman, accepting for Senator Harp, Maj. Gen. William Cugno, Adjutant General.

Connecticut men...

From Page 12

muskets, and captured about fifteen prisoners in the different assaults upon their position. Before daylight on April 3d the enemy evacuated his lines, and for the First Connecticut Artillery the war was ended.

The removal of the train and of the captured ordnance (176 guns and mortars, mostly heavy) consumed the time until July 13th, when the regiment was transferred to the defenses of Washington. Here it was held, engaged in experimental firing with 15-inch guns, until all danger of trouble with the French army in Mexico was over. On Sep. 25th the regiment was mustered out of the United

States service; and after a reception at Hartford worthy of the State, and a review and brigade drill before his Excellency Governor Buckingham, was finally discharged on Oct. 1, 1865.

It has been found impossible in the space allotted to this history of the regiment to give due credit to individuals. For these and many other details reference is made to the reports mentioned in the foot notes. Thirty-four officers received brevets for services rendered in the last campaign.

The regiment owed much to General Barry and General Hunt, under whom it so often served; and still more to Governor Buckingham, who used his power of appointing officers in a manner to serve as a model even in these days of civil service reform. The following letter addressed by General Barry to General Abbot forms a fitting close to the official record of the regiment: "As Chief of Artillery successively of the two principal armies of the United States during the four years of war now happily ended, I have enjoyed unusual opportunities for observation. You will on this account value my opinion when I assure you that the First Connecticut Artillery, in intelligence and the acquirements and services of its special arm, stands unrivaled in the armies of the United States."

Greater Hartford Veterans Only Job Fair 10/26/04!

Veterans Industries, in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Labor and the Office of Veteran Affairs at Central Connecticut State University is pleased to announce a Job Fair for Veterans only!

Date: Tuesday October 26, 2004
Time: 10:00 - 2:00
Place: Central CT State University / Alumni Hall
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT

Check the Connecticut Department of Labor website
for updates on list of employers and open positions.
For more information, please call 203.506.4133

103rd Fighter Wing & the Connecticut Air National Guard proudly host the 2004 Connecticut Military Department Officer's Dining In



Aqua Turf Club in
Southington, CT

Date: 4 November 2004

Time: 1800—2200

Please join us for an evening of camaraderie as we continue the tradition of the Officers Dining In.

All Current and Former ARNG, ANG & Militia Officers.

Choice of Prime Rib, Chicken Francaise or Baked Scrod - Cost is \$50

Uniform: Army Dress Blues, Air Force Mess Dress

Highlights

- ◆ Traditional Punch Bowl Ceremony
- ◆ Keynote Speaker To Be Determined

Connecticut Air National Guard
point of contact: 2Lt Turner

103 CF/CCQ
Attention: Dining-In
100 Nicholson Road
East Granby, CT 06026-9309

Phone: 860-292-2703
Fax: 860-292-2458
Email: bryon.turner@ctbrad.ang.af.mil

Please Return NLT 19 Oct 02 Protocol dictates responding either way

Rank: _____ Name: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

I will - will not attend (circle one)

Meal Choice: Prime Rib Chicken Scrod (circle one)

Please make check payable to Flying Yankee Club

Retirees' Voice

New Veteran's ID cards explained

SGT. 1ST CLASS (RET.) JOHN BEDNARZ

This was brought to my attention the other day and I think it is important enough to include it here even though you may have gotten notice elsewhere. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is providing new Veteran's Identification Cards for eligible veterans use at VA facilities. The new card protects the privacy of your sensitive personal information, as it will no longer show your Social Security number or your date of birth on the front of the card. Only eligible veterans will receive the card.

You need to get your picture taken for the new card at the VA medical facility. Once you have your picture taken, the card will be mailed to you at the address you have provided, within five to seven days. (I am told that you may get your card before you leave the facility, if they're not too backed up.) Please be sure that you give them the proper address. If the Post Office cannot deliver it they will return it to the facility where you requested the card.

After you receive your card, remember to take it with you to your next appointment to ease the check-in process. And

remember the card is only for identification and check-in. It cannot be used as a credit card, or an insurance card, and does not authorize or pay for care at non-VA facilities.

Although this card is less susceptible to information theft than the old card it should still be protected as you would a credit card or other ID that has personal information on it. If you lose it contact your local VA medical facility to request a new card. You will be asked for identifying information before you receive your new card.

After you have received your new Veteran's Identification Card and used it at a VA facility, you can dispose of your old card. Please dispose of it in a secure manner as you would a credit card. It contains sensitive information about you. If you have concerns about your new card, please contact your local VA medical center for assistance or you may contact the Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-8387. They can determine the status of your card.

On another note the Department of Health and Human Services announced the 2005 Medicare Premium paid by Medicare beneficiaries. The monthly premium for Medicare Part B, The Medicare program that covers physician services, outpatient

hospital services, durable medical equipment, and a small number of home health services, and the one required for TRICARE-for Life eligibility, will increase from \$66.60 to \$78.20.

In other news

For retirees who have winter homes and summer homes, please remember to contact Staff Sgt. Shelia Tate to change your mailing address seasonally in order to continue receiving the Connecticut Guardian. You must also inform her of any permanent address changes.

This list is also used to send out invitations to the Senior NCO Dining In and the annual Retirees' Picnic at Camp Rell.

Her email address is shelia.tate@ct.ngb.army.mil or you can reach her by phone at (860) 524-4903.

Also, in the Family Deployment Supplement of this issue you will find an article about the Handyperson's Hotline.

This hotline is used by family members of deployed Soldiers and Airmen who find they have a household emergency.

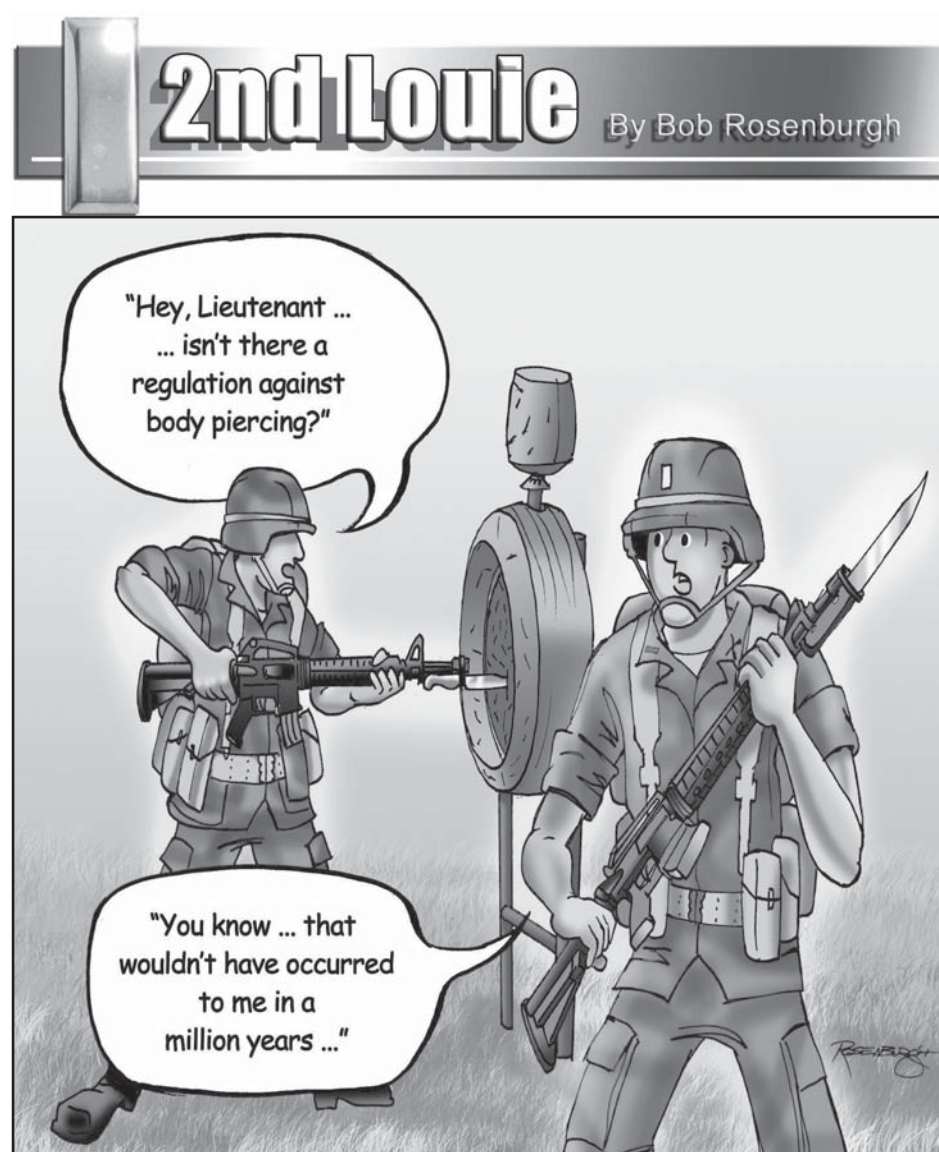
Please consider giving of your expertise and free time as retirees to help the families of our young Soldiers and Airmen who are fighting terrorism around the world.

Election
Day
is Tuesday,
Nov. 2

There's still time to
register as a voter
and make your
voice heard.
Contact your local
Registrar of voters

Voting:

It's your right
and your
responsibility



Connecticut National Guard Fulltime Employment Opportunities

The following are Connecticut Army and Air National Guard Technician openings. For a copy of the full Technician vacancy announcements, go to www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Auditor (Excepted)	USPFO	GS-11	Nov. 14
Auditor (Competitive)	USPFO	GS-11	Nov. 14
Production Controller (Acft)	AVCRAD	GS-9	Oct. 19

Air National Guard Technician Vacancies

No current ones listed

Listed below are current openings in the Connecticut National Guard AGR program. For a copy of the Military Tour Vacancy Announcement, go the www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Production Recruiter	RRC	SFC/E-7	Open AGR Statewide
Senior Personnel Sgt.	JFHQ-CT	SGT/E-5	Open AGR Statewide
Supply Sergeant	169th AVN Reg.	SSG/E-6	Open AGR Statewide
AVN Comm Equip Repairer	AVCRAD	SPC/CPL-SSG	Open AGR Statewide
Aircraft Powertrain Repairer	AVCRAD	SSG/E-6	Open AGR Statewide
Readiness NCO	C/1st Bn/102nd INF	SFC/E-7	Open AGR Statewide
ACFT Pseudrl Rep	AVCRAD	SSG/E-6	Open AGR Statewide
Adminstrative NCO	JFHQ-CT	SSG/E-6	Open AGR Statewide
Acft Pwrplnt Repairer	AVCRAD	SSG/E-6	Open AGR Statewide
Public Affairs Specialist	JFHQ-CT	01-03	Open AGR Statewide
Personnel Svcs Sergeant	JFHQ-CT	Up to E-5	Open AGR Statewide
Administrative Officer	169th LDR Reg.	01-03	Open AGR Statewide

Air National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Security Forces Journeyman	103rd FW, SFS	SSGT	Open AGR Statewide

NOTE: Other positions with outdated closing dates are also listed on the website. Some of these positions are currently under consideration, and others may have their application dates extended. Keep checking the website and if you have any questions concerning outdated postings, call HRO at (860) 878-6739 or (860) 878-6729.



Call
1-800-716-3530

Coming Events

October

October 7

Senior NCO Dining In
Aqua Turf, Southington

October 8

Technician Picnic & Awards
Camp Rell

October 11

Columbus Day

October 15

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

October 31

Halloween

November

November 2

Election Day

November 4

Officer Dining In
Aqua Turf, Southington

November 7

Veterans' Day Parade
Hartford

November 11

Veteran's Day

November 25

Thanksgiving

December

December 7

Pearl Harbor Day

December 8

Hanukkah

December 25

Christmas

December 26

Kwanzaa

December 31

New Year's Eve

In future issues

Vietnam Veterans serve in GWOT

Helmets to Hardhats

Operation Elf gears up for holidays

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month previous to publication.

Governor's Day brings Soldiers, Airmen, families together



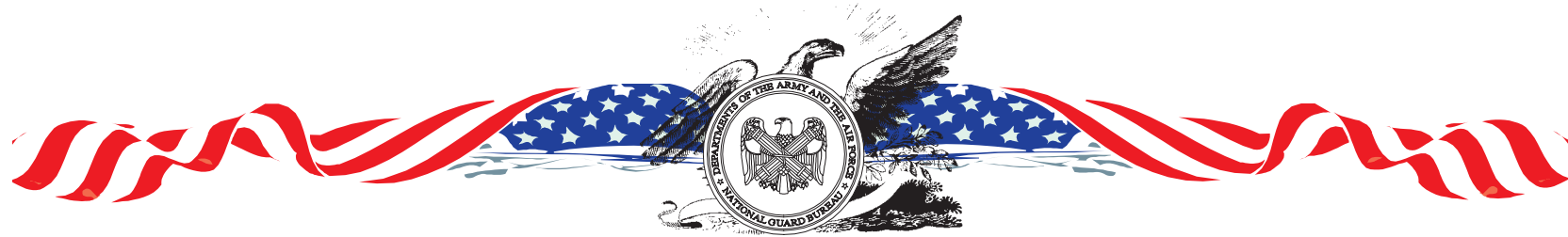
A young girl dances the afternoon away to the sounds of one of the live bands that provided entertainment at Camp Rell. (Photo by 65th PCH)



Gov. M. Jodi Rell and Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno spend a moment with Maj. Jason Holloren, the Special Forces Soldier who dropped from the sky to deliver the Stars and Stripes for display during Family Day. The flag was flown at half mast in memory of the thousands of lives lost in the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks, Sept. 11, 2001. Family Day marked the third anniversary of the tragic events in New York and Washington, D.C. (Photo by Spc. Jordan E. Werme, 65th PCH)

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Family Deployment Supplement to the Connecticut Guardian

VOL. 5 NO. 10

HARTFORD, CT

OCTOBER 2004

Hotline growth means more volunteers needed

PFC. JOSEPH BROOKS
65TH PCH

Imagine that you're sitting at home enjoying a quiet night when suddenly a pipe in your basement bursts. The next thing you know you're looking at a flooded basement and the possibility of water damage. This situation alone is usually enough to make for a bad day. But now imagine that your spouse is on deployment, protecting home front while your own family home is falling apart around you. You're overwhelmed by the stress and it seems that there is no one you can turn to. Who are you going to call?

The "Ghostbusters" are not going to do any good in this situation. A plumber will charge you double his normal rate, if you can even find one. But the families of National Guard members do have someone they can turn to. The Handyperson Hotline and Sgt. Maj. Toby Cormier of the 85th Troop Command, Connecticut Army National Guard, answers the call on a daily basis.

"Having a family member deployed is stressful enough. Worrying about the safety of loved ones is enough but for the family of National Guard members this stress is only the beginning. National Guard families not only deal with the stress that a deployment has on the family but they also have to deal

with the stressors of everyday life."

These stressors usually include being able to maintain their property and homes while the other adult in the family is away. Instead of splitting the regular household chores such as raking leaves, cleaning gutters and shoveling snow one member of the family has to do it all. Then there are the unexpected stresses, such as broken pipe.

It is with these unexpected stresses that the Handyperson Hotline does the most good. As Cormier explained, "I wanted to help with the war effort. Our deployed Soldiers have enough to worry about without worrying about household problems. They need to be able to focus on the mission. It's all about soldier helping soldier."

Since its creation the Handyperson Hotline has grown considerably. It began with Cormier making repairs at the houses of deployed Guard members and has grown to a force of more than 40 volunteers. Last

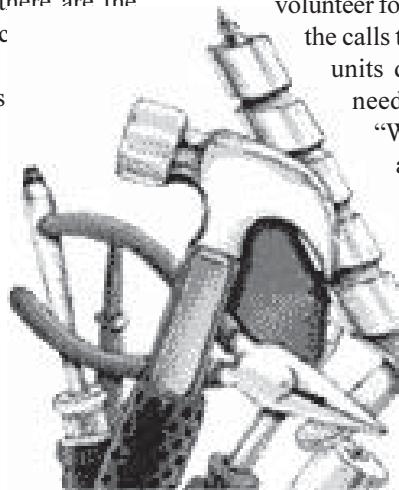
month the hotline received a \$4,000 grant from the Newman's Own Foundation and was recognized for its innovativeness.

Unfortunately the growth of the program has not met the growing need for more volunteers.

"This program is only as good as its volunteer force. Right now we can handle the calls that we receive but with more units deploying we could see the need skyrocket," Cormier said. "We need electricians, plumbers and with winter coming, we need snow plows."

The Handyperson Hotline needs volunteers. The more National Guard members and family members volunteer, the better the program will work. Laborers with special skill are especially needed but anyone who is willing to give up a few hours of their time can volunteer.

To volunteer, contact Sgt. Maj. Cormier at toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil or (860)209-0770. Please provide your name, phone number, status (active, retired, spouse) and any special skills or trade you may possess.



Handyperson Helpline Blotter

Projects Done:

- Leaking pipes repaired
- Repaired a malfunctioning furnace
- Fixed a broken toilet
- Installed an air-conditioning unit
- Lawn services
- Repaired broken vinyl siding
- Assisted with broken garage door opener
- Repaired leaking roof

Volunteers Still Needed:

- Winter Snow Plows
- Lawn services
- Plumbers
- Electricians
- Help installing a child's swing set
- Help installing a computer

Home Depot, Government launch Military Veterans Jobs Initiative

GERRY J. GILMORE
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Home Depot executives and senior government leaders launched a new public-private employment initiative for military veterans and their spouses Sept. 21.

Operation Career Front – cosponsored by the 25-year-old building supply company, the Defense Department, the Department of Labor and the Department of Veterans Affairs — was unveiled during a kick-off ceremony held at the National Press Club.

The initiative, according to Bob Nardelli, Home Depot's chairman, president and chief executive officer, was created to provide job opportunities for military veterans, retirees, National Guard members, reservists, and

military spouses and other family members.

Military veterans, Nardelli noted, make exceptional employees who bring "focus, discipline and a commitment to excellence" to the workplace.

They "have never let me down," Nardelli asserted, noting there are now more than 15,000 military veterans among Home Depot's 300,000 employees at more than 1,800 stores. He said the company is expected to create more than 20,000 new jobs this year.

Private-public programs like Operation Career Front, Nardelli said, demonstrate patriotism and are a win-win situation for business and military veterans alike.

SEE HOME DEPOT Page S31

Glen Sykes, a retired Marine Corps' master sergeant, left, and Dana Chango, the wife of an Army staff sergeant stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., center, meet with Bob Nardelli, Home Depot's chairman, president and chief executive officer, during Operation Career Front's Sept. 21 kick-off ceremony

at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Sykes and Chango are exceptional Home Depot employees, Nardelli said. Operation Career Front, a public-private partnership between Home Depot, DoD, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, was created to provide job opportunities for military veterans, retirees, National Guard members, reservists, and military spouses and other family members. (Photo by Gerry J. Gilmore)



Some military to get break on Medicare Part B premiums

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The Department of Defense announced today that nearly 35,000 Medicare beneficiaries who are eligible for Tricare Health Benefits will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part B without having to pay a surcharge for late enrollment. Also, those Medicare beneficiaries who enrolled in Part B since 2001 and are paying more than \$66.60 per month will receive a refund for the premium surcharges paid since January 2004.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will automatically enroll affected beneficiaries in Medicare Part B during the month of September 2004 without requiring the beneficiary to take any action. Those eligible beneficiaries who have paid a premium surcharge during 2004 will have that surcharge automatically refunded to them as well. Beneficiaries eligible for these special provisions were identified by the Department of Defense (DoD), SSA and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Eligible beneficiaries should receive two letters, one from DoD and one from SSA.

The DoD letter emphasizes that those beneficiaries who are entitled to Medicare Part A based on age, disability or End Stage Renal Disease, must have Medicare Part A & B to retain their Tricare eligibility. The SSA letter tells beneficiaries that they have been enrolled in Medicare Part B effective September 2004, provides them the option of selecting a different month of Medicare Part B entitlement in 2004 and explains how the premium will affect their Social Security payment amount.

Beneficiaries eligible for the surcharge waiver who are currently receiving Social Security benefits will receive a refund check and a letter explaining how this change will affect their Social Security payment amount.

“Not only are we enrolling eligible

beneficiaries in Part B effective Sept. 1, but we are also making sure that those eligible individuals who had been paying higher premiums get their refunds,” said Commissioner of Social Security Jo Anne Barnhart.

“Beneficiaries should receive notices regarding these actions by the end of October.”

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr.

“The new Medicare law protects thousands of military retirees from having to make higher payments to enroll in Medicare Part B.”

CMS Administrator Dr. Mark B. McClellan

stated, “We welcome these new provisions and the assistance they provide for many of our military beneficiaries to retain their Tricare benefits as a supplement to Medicare coverage. The help and cooperation from CMS and SSA have been excellent.”

“The new Medicare law protects thousands of military retirees from having to make higher payments to enroll in Medicare Part B,” said CMS Administrator Dr. Mark B. McClellan. “This will allow eligible military retirees to use their Tricare benefits as a Medicare supplement.”

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 included two provisions for those Medicare beneficiaries who are eligible for Tricare, a health care coverage program for active duty and retired members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors. The

law:

- Eliminates the Medicare Part B surcharge for uniformed services beneficiaries who enrolled in Part B during the years 2001 to 2004. Medicare Part B premiums will be reduced for these beneficiaries to the regular monthly premium rate and beneficiaries will be reimbursed for any surcharges paid in 2004.

- The law also allows uniformed services beneficiaries who are entitled to

Medicare Part A but not enrolled in Medicare Part B to enroll in Part B without a premium surcharge. These beneficiaries will be

automatically enrolled in Part B effective Sept. 1, 2004, but most can change that date to any other month in 2004.

To remain eligible for Tricare benefits, uniformed services beneficiaries also must be registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

Information may be updated in DEERS by visiting an identification card issuing facility. To find the nearest identification card issuing facility, beneficiaries may visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl>. Beneficiaries with questions or who require further assistance regarding DEERS may contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at (800) 538-9552 (TTY/TDD 1-800-363-2883 for the hearing impaired).

For general information about Tricare

benefits, beneficiaries may call the Tricare Information Service at 1 (888) 363-5433, contact the health benefits advisor at their nearest military medical facility, or visit the Tricare Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/>. Additional information regarding these benefits under the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-173) is available at <http://www.ssa.gov/legislation/tricarefact.html> or <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/legislation/tricarefact.html>.

Beneficiaries who think they may be affected by the new law who do not receive a notice by Nov. 1 should contact their local Social Security Office. If beneficiaries have questions about enrolling in Medicare Part B, they may call SSA toll free, at 1(800) 772-1213 or visit any Social Security office.

**For
deployment
related
questions
call**

1-800-858-2677

Home Depot, government team up...

From Page S1

David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness; Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Labor Elaine L.

Chao; and Dennis Donovan, Home Depot's executive vice president for human resources, accompanied Nardelli at the ceremony.

Chu, who noted that the joint initiative was a year in the making, saluted Home Depot's desire to support military veterans and spouses. However, he said, Operation Career Front “is much more than just providing job opportunities at the Home Depot.” It is also, he said, “a reaffirmation of our commitment and resolve to support the men and women who wear the uniform.”

Near the end of the ceremony, Nardelli

introduced Glen Sykes, a retired Marine Corps master sergeant, and Dana Chango, the wife of an Army staff sergeant stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. Sykes and Chango, Nardelli pointed out, are exceptional Home Depot employees.

Chango, the manager of a Home Depot outlet in Clarksville, Tenn., credits Home Depot with providing her the opportunity to work at different stores as her husband is transferred across the country.

Operation Career Front, she said, affords Home Depot “the opportunity to get some good associates.”

Sykes, the hardware department supervisor at the company's Sandy Springs store in Atlanta, noted that Operation Career Front presents “a great opportunity” for former service members “to utilize their leadership and management skills.”



David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, standing, addresses participants at the Operation Career Front ceremony held Sept. 21 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., as Bob Nardelli, Home Depot's chairman, president and chief executive officer, looks on. (Photo by Gerry J. Gilmore)

Family Assistance Center locations

Family Assistance Centers are set-up in the following armories around the state:

Bristol Armory
61 Center Street, Bristol, CT 06010
(860) 582-1206 Toll Free 866-347-2283
Sgt. Michael Bertoli

Waterbury Armory
64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
(203) 574-2406 Toll Free 866-347-2291
Sgt. Jonathon Duffy & Spec. Tamara Jex

Manchester Armory & AVCRAD
330 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 646-0780 Toll Free 866-347-2286 Capt. Lauri Tinelle

103rd FW, Bradley ANG Base
Bldg 8, East Granby, CT 06026
(860) 292-2730 Mrs. Donna Rivera

Hartford Armory
360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795
1-800-858-2677

Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Mrs. Michelle McCarty, Mrs. Karen Somes, OC Claude Hibbert
and Sgt. Jessica McKenna

Norwich Armory
38 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 823-1342 Ext. 12 Toll Free 866-347-3357
Mrs. Andrea Lathrop

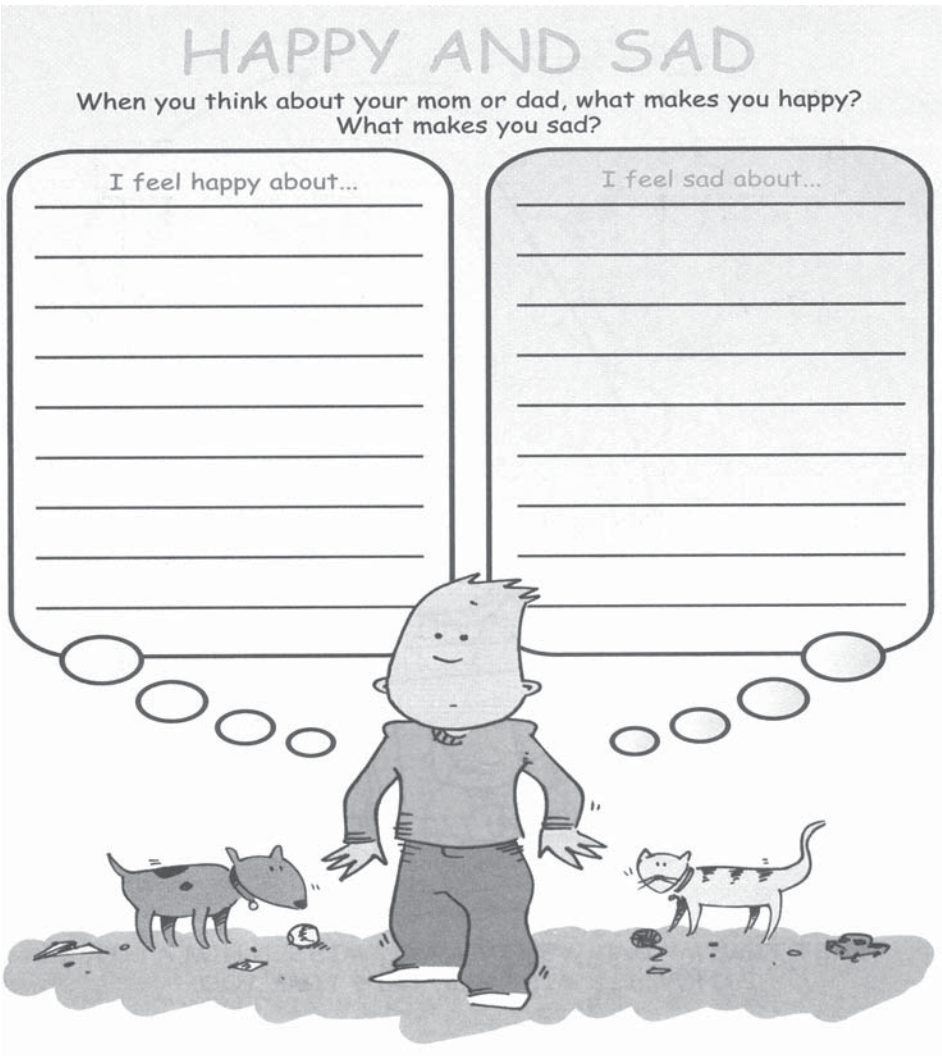
103rd Air Control Squadron
206 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477
(203) 795-2983 Charlie and Jane Solomon

118th Medical Company
New Britain Armory
855 Stanley St., New Briatain, CT 06053
Sgt. Elizabeth Crouthamel (860) 883-6935

Family Assistance Centers for the 189th AVN and the 143rd ASG are currently being
staffed and will be announced in the November issue of the Connecticut Guardian.
Anyone needing assistance before then can call 1-800-858-2677.

Volunteers are needed in each facility.
Those wishing to help out can contact Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Family Program
Manager at 1-800-858-2677.

Any family member or loved one of a deployed soldier who has questions about
benefits or deployment issues may also get answers to their question at the
following email address: kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil



Kids' Creative Corner

A MONTHLY FEATURE OF
FUN AND EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES